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Liberals leave E. German coalition

EAST-BERLIN (R) — East Germany's five-party governing coalition began to unravel Tuesday when the small Liberal Party walked out in a protest over the precise timing of German unification due in December. The parliament, led by Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere's governing majority intact but threatened to shatter careful later-German preparations for unification. "De Maiziere makes it impossible for the Liberals to continue in a coalition," Rainer Gysi, head of the parliamentary group, told reporters after party members sent the premier in a last-ditch effort to resolve the impasse. "De Maiziere and his CDU bears responsibility for this through their unyielding stand on the issue of accession (to West Germany) and voting procedures," he said. West German leaders earlier denounced the quarrel in East Germany's first freely elected government as a force involving amateurs and urged Chancellor Helmut Kohl to bring them to heel to keep the unity train on track (see page 8).

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King receives Iraqi cable

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a cable from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in reply to the King's congratulatory cable on the occasion of the Islamic new year. President Hussein wished the King continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

169 people reinstated

AMMAN (Petra) — In line with the prime minister's directives to reinstate government employees who had been dismissed from their jobs for political reasons, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) has reinstated 169 people, according to CSC officials. The officials said that 25 out of those people had refused to go back to their jobs. The officials added that a special committee headed by assistant director-general of the Budget Department and grouping two senior officials from the CSC was studying the cases of those dismissed for political reasons and are preparing recommendations to reinstate them. The officials pointed out that lists of the names of people to be reinstated will be issued by the CSC.

JD 360,000 allocated for training projects

AMMAN (Petra) — In accordance with the government's policy to create skilled local labour and help reduce unemployment, the Cabinet Tuesday approved the allocation of JD 305,000 to a project aimed at developing driver training centres in Hashemiyah, Aqaba and Irbid. The project will train 590 truck drivers annually. The Cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, also approved a JD 55,000 allocation to the hotel training centre in Sahab which will train 500 students annually.

Fundamentalists attack Bhutto

LAHORE (AP) — A small religious party has accused Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of "insulting" the Islamic religion, a crime punishable by death or life in prison. The provincial law ministry is considering whether to charge Bhutto, but a decision is not expected for several weeks. The fundamentalist Jammat-e-Islami lodged two complaints against Bhutto Monday with the Lahore police. Bhutto's party spokesman has disputed the allegations, claiming they are politically motivated. A police official said the complaints were sent to the provincial advocate-general who will decide whether a case can be brought against the prime minister. The accusations against Ms. Bhutto resulted from a statement she reportedly made last Friday to reporters denouncing the Muslim punishment of cutting off a person's hand for stealing.

Hassan II meets Algerian opposition

ALGIERS (R) — King Hassan of Morocco, in Algiers for a North African summit, has had unprecedented meetings with opposition leaders including Abassi Madani of the Islamic movement, the official news agency APS said Tuesday. Madani, whose Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) beat the ruling party in local elections last month, was one of six Algerian party leaders to see King Hassan separately aboard his boat.

Israel gives green signal to VoA

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's national planning board Tuesday reversed its decision to delay construction of a Voice of America (VoA) relay station after U.S. officials renewed pleas for an immediate start of the facility. The board had voted in June to halt building of the project in the desert for a two-year ecological study of bird migrations, which environmentalists said could be disturbed by the transmitter. The U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv issued a statement saying it is "pleased by today's vote... and looks forward to rapid approval by the government of Israel and early construction of the station."

Mubarak, Klibi pursue diplomacy in Gulf row

Combined agency dispatches

EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak Tuesday visited Iraq and Kuwait and held talks with its leaders who are embroiled in an escalating dispute over oil production and prices and territorial claims.

Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi resumed his efforts to mediate the dispute by flying to Baghdad from Tunis for talks with the Iraqi leadership. The United States, amid reports that Iraq was massing troops along its border with Kuwait, said American warships have begun a small scale, short-term exercise in the Gulf with ships from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which has also come under Iraqi accusations that it had undermined world oil prices by overproduction.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said it was not likely that Iraq would launch an attack against Kuwait.

Iraq said meanwhile it will insist on Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) moves to raise oil prices to \$25 a barrel.

Against the backdrop of the uncertainty in the Gulf, oil prices moved up by about 30 cents a

barrel in the international market.

Mubarak flew to Baghdad and on to Kuwait to try to bring the two OPEC neighbours to the negotiating table. He was also expected to visit Saudi Arabia and told Egyptian reporters his mission was to "clear the air in the Arab World and unify Arab ranks."

Western diplomats said Iraq had moved two armoured divisions of several thousand men backed by tanks and missiles close to disputed oil fields on the undefined border with Kuwait.

Iraq renewed a verbal assault on the United States on Tuesday, accusing Washington of inciting Kuwait against Baghdad.

The Iraqi press Monday accused Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, brother of the ruler, of being a U.S. agent.

Klibi, who arrived in Baghdad Tuesday, spent three days in Kuwait last week but did not come to Baghdad then because Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz was absent in Egypt, league officials said.

In Washington, U.S. administration officials said American forces in the Gulf region had not been put on any special alert, but

the naval exercise with UAE ships was clearly timed to show support for allies in the Gulf.

"Iraq and others know there is no place for coercion and intimidation in a civilised world," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said. "All disputes should be handled through peaceful means."

U.N. Secretary General Perez de Cuellar said he saw no likelihood either of an Iraqi attack against Kuwait or of United States military intervention in the area.

"I think that both things are totally excluded," he told reporters who questioned him about reports that Iraqi troops were massing near the border with Kuwait and that U.S. forces in the Gulf had been placed on alert.

"I don't see either the Iraqis embarking on any military offensive against Kuwait, nor the Americans intervening in Middle East affairs," he said.

Asked if he thought the situation was containable, he replied: "I think it is."

Apparently alluding to Iraq and Kuwait, he added: "I rely on the wisdom of both parties in order to avoid any escalation of the situation, which I think can be

easily controlled."

Questioned about a possible role for himself or some other U.N. organ in helping reduce tension, Perez de Cuellar said: "I understand that the Egyptians are working on it and I hope that everything will be quiet."

Perez de Cuellar noted that Kuwait's U.N. representative saw him last week "to report to me about the situation" but without asking for any U.N. action.

He said the ambassador brought a letter from Sheikh Sabah outlining charges made against Kuwait by Iraq, and that the same letter was sent to the president of the Security Council, but again without requesting any action.

According to a copy of the letter obtained by Reuters on Monday, Sheikh Sabah rejected as groundless Iraqi charges that Kuwait was responsible for a drop in oil prices by gutting the market, had stolen oil from an Iraqi oilfield and had caused damage to Iraq's economy "tantamount to a military aggression."

Iraq was also said to have charged that Kuwait's alleged action "was premeditated and was

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Qian says U.S. fuels tension

NICOSIA (AP) — Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen criticised the United States Tuesday for interrupting its dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"The suspension of the United States dialogue with the PLO has led to greater tension in the Middle East," Qian told a press conference at the end of a two-day visit to Cyprus.

Turning to Cyprus, he said his visit and talks with President George Vassiliou were "a great success."

"The objective was to strengthen relations and make preparations for next month's visit to China by President Vassiliou," he added.

Qian said China supported a Cyprus settlement based on principles "safeguarding the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of the island."

Cyprus has been unofficially partitioned since a 1974 Turkish invasion and seizure of the northern third of the island.

Qian said following his talks he expected "a large increase in trade, including the launching of a container service between the two countries."

He said joint ventures were also being contemplated, without specifying their type.

Though Cyprus is a small country, its position in the Mediterranean leads itself to reexport operations, Qian added.

"I hope we will be able to increase economic cooperation," he said.

Dealing further with the Middle East, Qian said that despite the decrease of international tension following developments in Eastern Europe, "regrettably in the Middle East there has instead been an emergence of greater tension."

"In my view a new problem emerged in the Middle East which posed a further obstacle to the peace process. This was the new Israeli government which adopted a more hard line attitude not conducive to the peace process."

He added that the "new mass Jewish immigration to the occupied territories will only lead to a new situation altering the status quo and resulting in a greater number of Palestinian refugees, and provide new difficulties in the settlement of the Middle East problem."

Qian said "the best way" to settle the problem would be through an international peace conference to be attended by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and "all the parties concerned."

Jewish immigration encourages religious conflict — Crown Prince

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Tuesday Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine compounds the situation in the region and encourages confrontation between Muslims and Jews, and undermines moderation.

He called for enhancing the concept of national unity, transcending all disputes and aborting all attempts to destabilise the security and stability of the country.

Prince Hassan, speaking during a meeting with participants in the fourth national camp for Jordanian youth working abroad, said that national unity was the "solid base which Jordan relies on in

pursuance of its national and pan-Arab objectives and aspirations."

The Crown Prince underlined the importance of the three blocs — the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union — saying that "this age is the age of the great economic blocs." He noted the importance of investing Arab capital in Arab projects and institutions.

Prince Hassan reviewed with the participants in the camp who came from 20 Arab countries, Jordan's democratic experiment and the economic situation in the Kingdom, noting that Jordan

plans to increase its exports during the next few years.

On the unemployment problem, Prince Hassan said the figures are not precise, and that contacts were under way with sister Arab countries to find job opportunities for Jordanians. He spoke about behavioural unemployment and called on the youth to study the disciplines that suit the demands of the local market.

Attending the meeting, which was held at the University of Jordan, were Youth Minister Ibrahim Ghababsheh and University of Jordan President Mahmoud Al Samra.

Water needs could lead to serious regional destabilisation

By Kate Cass
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With available water resources already over-exploited, Israel will be forced to increase supplies by as much as 25 per cent by the end of the decade to meet the needs of an expected influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants, according to one Middle Eastern water expert.

Dr. Elias Salameh, head of the Water Resources Department at the University of Jordan, said in an interview with the Jordan Times that Israel's reliance on Arab water sources and its lack of potential resources could lead to serious destabilisation in the region over the issue of water.

"Depleting an area of its water resources means you are depriving people from eating, drinking and making a living," Salameh said. "That can lead to domestic unrest, which can result in regional and, ultimately, international conflict."

Israel's water needs outstrip supplies within the country's 1948 borders over a decade ago. It currently relies heavily on water resources from the surrounding Arab countries, including the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers, and the major aquifer which lies under the West Bank. According to Salameh, however, those resources are now over-exploited by 200 million cubic metres, or 10 per cent, annually.

Israel's current water consumption stands at about 1.8 billion cubic metres per year. Sixty seven per cent of that amount is used in the agricultural sector, 23 per cent for domestic use and the remaining 10 per cent for industrial purposes. The total does not reflect water use by Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, he said,

occupied territories, which amounts to approximately 300 million cubic metres annually.

According to projections recently completed by Salameh, if growth in population, agriculture and industry remain at today's levels, and a total of 700,000 people immigrate to Israel within the decade, water need will reach 2.4 billion cubic metres annually by the year 2000.

If agricultural water use is capped at its current level of 1.25 billion cubic metres per year and industrial needs increase at the present rate, Salameh said the same immigration and population growth rates would mean Israel will need two billion cubic metres per year by the turn of the century.

Even without the new immigrants, and if agricultural and industrial usage keeps pace with current population growth rates, water needs will reach 2.2 billion cubic metres over the same time period, Salameh said.

West Bank water

Palestinian sources indicate Israel currently siphons off about 85 per cent of the West Bank aquifer. According to Mahmoud Lahoud, head of the Natural Resources Department in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) office of Economic Development in Amman, Palestinian water use is sharply curtailed and permits for new wells are seldom issued by the Israeli authorities.

Salameh said water use by Israelis is about 170 cubic metres per capita annually. The average water consumption rate among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, he said,

is 25 cubic metres per person annually. By comparison, he said the average U.S. resident uses 200 cubic metres of water a year.

Israel also diverts all of the Jordan River north of Lake Tiberias, for an annual yield of 540 million cubic metres, while Jordan, which suffers from a severe water shortage, gets none of the river's resources. Israel also uses 100 million cubic metres per year from the Yarmouk River, which originates in Syria and flows into Jordan.

Jordanian officials have cautioned repeatedly that Israel's water needs could lead to war in the region. During an interview broadcast a week ago with the U.S. news programme, "Nightline," which was also aired on Jordan Television, His Majesty King Hussein said, "the limitations of what is available, even in terms of water, make it impossible to see how everyone is going to fit in without something happening."

Earlier this month Prime Minister Mudar Badran said that Israel was instrumental in convincing World Bank officials to discontinue funding for the \$450-million Al Walhah dam project which was to have been built on the Yarmouk River below the Jordan-Syria border and would have provided the two countries with about 250 million cubic metres of water annually.

Badran said Israel had claimed rights to the Yarmouk, and had thereby intervened in the project.

One Israeli water consultant, Dr. Elisha Kally, told a Jerusalem conference on water last May that Israel believed the Al

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EC envoys deliver economic warning to Israeli leaders

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — European Community (EC) leaders ended their first talks with Israel's new right-wing government Tuesday after telling Israel to move towards Middle East peace if it expects economic cooperation from Europe.

The talks by three EC foreign ministers also produced a sharp debate about Israel's handling of the 31-month Palestinian uprising, Israeli reports said.

But Israeli leaders claimed progress was made in improving strained ties with Europe during the meetings with Foreign Minister David Levy and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"Lines of communication have been opened between Israel and Europe," Levy told reporters at Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv after the Europeans left.

Levy said earlier that he saw a swift in the European insistence that Israel's only way to make peace was to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"They are ready to accept any idea as long as it shows a chance for the peace process, and they don't only demand talks with the PLO," Levy said on Israel radio

in describing his meeting with the three foreign ministers Monday night.

After the meeting, Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis told a news conference that unless peace efforts resumed "economic and social cooperation will become more difficult" between Israel and Europe.

Israel's trade with Europe — about a third of the country's exports — could be affected when the 12-nation EC becomes a unified market in 1992.

De Michelis, president of the EC council of ministers, said the European Community was willing to accept any avenue that would produce progress towards peace.

"We are open to examine all possibilities offered by all parties, of course also by the Israeli government," he said.

While inviting Israel to try to find a "real Palestinian interlocutor" other than the PLO, De Michelis also said European leaders still believed Middle East peace was only with PLO involvement.

Shamir spokesman Avi Pazner said the prime minister repeated Israel's objections to the PLO

during his meeting Tuesday with the foreign ministers.

The EC ministers, who also included Jacques F. Pons of Luxembourg and Gerard Collins of Ireland, left Shamir's office without speaking to reporters. They then flew to Tunis where they were to meet Arab League Council President Farouk Qaddoumi, a leading PLO official.

The newspaper Haaretz and Israel radio said a sharp exchange with Levy developed after Pons said that Israel has violated Palestinians' human rights, mentioning both the violence of the uprising and the closure of West Bank universities.

Levy reportedly responded that "nobody is as sensitive to human rights as Israel and that any pressure will only draw the next war closer."

The EC visit was the first major Western probe of the views of the Israeli government formed last month, the most right-wing in its history, and there was no evidence of any shifts in position.

But diplomatic sources said they believed Levy might present new ideas when he sees Secretary of State James Baker in Washington Aug. 9.

Shamir says formal ties with Moscow are far off

HAMBURG, West Germany (AP) — Israel and the Soviet Union are still far away from restoring diplomatic relations, Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was quoted Tuesday as saying.

"We see no progress with the Soviet Union in the direction of normal diplomatic relations," Shamir was quoted as saying in an interview with West Germany's mass-circulation newspaper Bild.

"We are still far away from diplomatic relations," he added.

Apart from a shift by the Soviets on Jewish emigration, "we do not recognise any reconciliation points" in Moscow's policies, Shamir was quoted as saying.

Lack of progress on reestablishing diplomatic relations could be linked to "Arab pressure," Shamir told the newspaper.

"But the Soviet Union is a great country and such decisions should be the sole responsibility of the Soviet Union," Shamir was quoted as saying. "I don't believe that the Arab countries can force the Soviet Union to keep a certain position."

The Soviet Union and most of its East European allies broke off diplomatic relations with Israel after the 1967 war. Following democratic revolutions in Eastern

Europe, Israel has restored diplomatic ties with Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria. Relations with Romania were never broken.

Shamir praised the Soviet government for allowing record number of Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel.

Plane project

Vladislav Malkovitch, president of the Soviet chamber of commerce, arrived in Israel Tuesday and said he will look into a joint Soviet-U.S.-Israeli passenger plane project.

"One of the most promising projects that has been in the works for half a year now involves cooperation in the field of aviation... modern airplanes that would carry us in the year 2000, if we are alive by then," Malkovitch said on Israeli radio.

"This would be a triangle — the Soviet Union, Israel and the United States. We would supply the planes, since we have the most competitive ones, Israel will supply navigational and measuring equipment," he said. The United States is to provide the engines, he added.

The daily Jerusalem Post newspaper reported that the project calls for upgrading either the Ilyushin-96 or the Tupolev-144.

Soviet 'union treaty' planned

MOSCOW (R) — A top aide to President Mikhail Gorbachev said Tuesday the Soviet republics would probably agree on the draft of a new "union treaty" by December, granting them greater independence from the Kremlin.

But Gorbachev told his inner presidential council Friday he believed eight key areas, including defence, currency, energy and transport, had to stay under central control, aide Grigory Revenko told a news conference.

"August and September should be spent working out general principles," Revenko, a member of the council, said.

"Documents will be compiled for a treaty in October and November and in December this could go to a first reading. But this could spin out a few months into the new year."

Gorbachev, facing separatist violence in the south and unilateral declaration of independence by the northern Baltic republics, agreed a month ago to a full review of the treaty binding the 15 republics.

Hizbollah stands firm in Lebanese village

NABATTYEH, Lebanon (Agencies) — Pro-Iranian radicals Tuesday repulsed rival Shi'ites who tried to drive them from a South Lebanon village in a day of hand-to-hand fighting in which 23 people were killed.

Bodies littered the streets of the village of Jarjouch and black smoke billowed overhead as a storm of shell and rocket fire swept the mountainous ridge of Iqlim Al Toufah, some 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

Security sources said 55 people were wounded in 12 hours of combat between Tehran-inspired Hizbollah fighters and militiamen of the Syrian-backed Amal and its leftist allies.

The casualties took the toll to 129 killed and 245 wounded since Hizbollah seized Jarjouch nine days ago, sparking repeated assaults by Palestinian-backed Amal forces to drive Hizbollah out and prevent it extending its territory.

Most of Jarjouch's 7,000 population fled when the fighting erupted.

About 300 Amal fighters launched a three-pronged attack on Jarjouch at dawn Tuesday and advanced some 200 metres towards the southern approach of the village in fierce hand-to-hand fighting.

The security sources said Hizbollah guerrillas, who believe death in battle means a place in heaven, contested every inch of territory and eventually forced Amal to give up the ground it had gained.

Despite the setback, an Amal field commander in the market town of Nabatiyeh told Reuters: "We are determined to recapture Jarjouch at any cost."

The active Baathist intervention on Amal's side suggests the Syrian government wants to curb Iran's growing influence through Hizbollah's corolligionists in Lebanon.

The Syrians have 40,000 troops stationed in northern, eastern and central Lebanon under a 1976 Arab League mandate to smother Lebanon's civil war, now in its 16th year.

But the Syrian army has refrained from entering South Lebanon to avert a collision with Israel. Israel considers South Lebanon a "red line" across which it would not tolerate Syrian military presence.

The Lebanese Baath Party, which has a 1,500-strong militia

and is led by Abdulla Al Amin, a Shi'ite, dispatched fighters to the south last week. But they kept a low profile until Tuesday's attack.

At stake is the mastery of the 1.5 million Shi'ites, who make up the largest single sect in Lebanon, the only country outside Iran where Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's brand of Shi'ite fundamentalism has taken root.

A police spokesman said an estimated 1,500 irregulars of Amal backed by 500 pro-Syrian Baath party militiamen launched the attack at 5:30 a.m. (0230 GMT).

The attackers stormed through the defences of the Hizbollah on Jarjouch's northwestern, southern and southeastern flanks in close-quarter combat, the spokesman said.

"Jarjouch must be taken from Hizbollah and we shall take it," the commander of the Baathist contingent, who goes by the nom de guerre of Abu Rami, told reporters.

Communiques from the Baathists and Amal claimed their fighters overran more than one half of Jarjouch. But Hizbollah contended the attack was repulsed in a "new bloodbath."

Both Amal and Hizbollah put out fresh reports that Israeli border gunners pounded their positions in and around Jarjouch. But the claim could not be independently verified.

Amal attempted to recapture Jarjouch with the support of Palestinian guerrillas last Friday. But the onslaught was crushed after two days of close-quarters combat.

The new assault scuttled efforts by the all-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross to arrange a mercy ceasefire to evacuate dozens of corpses rotting on the streets of Jarjouch since Friday.

It also shattered a one-day lull that was used by villagers to flee the region, which covers 130 square kilometres of rocky territory southeast of Sidon.

Police said more than 50,000 of the region's 75,000 population have escaped on foot or by car to safer areas at Sidon, Tyre and Nabatiyeh.

The police spokesman said an 800-man force dispatched by the Palestine Liberation Organisation to the embattled province last week apparently took no part in Tuesday's attack.

U.S. upset over Arab boycott moves

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department Tuesday sharply criticised a move by the Arab League to punish companies and groups that help Jews emigrate from the Soviet Union to Israel.

But Clovis Makoud, the league's representative in Washington, insisted the boycotts are legitimate as long as Israel and the Arabs are not at peace.

Makoud, in an interview, also criticised the U.S. government for not declaring Jewish settlements on the West Bank and in Gaza illegal.

The Arab countries, meeting last week in Tunis, expressed concern about the flow of Jews to Israel from the Soviet Union, now at an all-time high. According to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, 49,434 of the 49,859 Jews who left the Soviet Union in the first six months of the year went to Israel.

The Arab League foreign ministers directed the league's boycott office to look into extending its boycott of companies that do business with Israel to also punish companies and institutions assisting Soviet Jews to emigrate there.

The U.S. State Department said it opposes "settlement activities," but did not brand as illegal the Jewish settlements.

Otherwise, the department's statement strongly condemned any boycott.

"The position of the United States against Arab boycott activity is firm and unyielding," it said. "The Arabs should end their boycott and end their challenges to Israel's legitimacy."

The statement, distributed by spokeswoman Margaret D. Tutwiler, added: "Now is not the time for provocative actions or rhetoric which will only exacerbate the situation."

The State Department again affirmed the right of all Soviet citizens to leave and live in Israel or any other country. "The United States supports this right absolutely and welcomes the assistance of private and commercial institutions and organisations which assist in the realisation of this right," the statement said.

Makoud responded that "as long as state of war, a state of belligerency, has not ended, to that extent the boycott remains a legitimate instrument."



An offshoot of the wave of Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel is the displacement of Israelis from apartments because of higher rents which the new government-aided new arrivals can afford. Photo shows two of such displaced families.

Soviet wave prompts a new 'who is a Jew?' debate

By Sergei Shargorodsky
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Faced with a growing Soviet Jewish immigration wave, Israeli officials are engaged in a fresh "who is a Jew?" debate over whether immigration laws should be changed to curb the influx.

The question of amending the "law of return," which grants every Jew automatic Israeli citizenship, was argued on radio broadcasts Monday and in newspapers. The anger expressed was akin to that of American Jews during a similar debate over the last two years.

Favouring a change are the chairman of parliament's immigration committee, Michael Kleiner of the ruling right-wing Likud bloc, along with Interior Minister Arye Deri and Absorption Minister Yitzhak Peretz, both from ultra-orthodox parties.

Against it are such influential Likud figures as Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, head of the government's immigration committee, and legislator Uriel Lynn. Sharon reportedly told the cabinet Sunday he will oppose any changes because "we are dealing with an emergency situation with Jews running from the Soviet Union... what we must do is open the gates of the 'home-land' to the Jewish people."

Kleiner claims immigration laws are exploited by non-Jews and seeks to change a 1970 amendment to the law of return adopted in 1950.

The amendment passes the right of automatic citizenship to the child, grandchild or spouse of a Jew, as well as the spouse of his child or grandchild — those defined as Jews in Nazi Germany.

Kleiner says these rules would entitle at least five million Soviet "non-Jews" to Israeli citizenship and immigration benefits. Israel cannot afford to take them, he says.

So Kleiner wants to exclude descendants of Jewish grandfathers, unless the family arrives with the grandfather.

"If this really becomes a trend and millions of non-Jews use their Jewish grandfather to escape from the Soviet Union, this will endanger the Jewish nature of Israel," Kleiner said in an interview last week.

Lynn sharply attacked Kleiner Monday, saying his ideas were only designed to win Kleiner popularity among "weak circles" angry about immigration.

"This change may divide families and create panic and anxiety among potential immigrants... it has elements of racism and would present our country as racist," Lynn said in an interview.

He said Kleiner's proposal effectively means that "the group once eliminated by the Nazis cannot today come to Israel... what do we tell these people, that we don't give them protection?"

Lynn said the "law of return" is based on "a very clear idea" that all Jews who suffered Nazi persecution should be defined as Jews in Israel. "This has nothing to do with the halacha," Lynn added, referring to traditional Jewish law.

The halacha names as a Jew only one who is born to a Jewish mother.

In the controversy known as "who is a Jew?" Israel's orthodox establishment has long fought to change the law of return to follow the halacha and exclude non-orthodox converts. This was the point that angered U.S. Jews, many of whom belong to the conservative or reform branches of Judaism.

Deri, an ultra-orthodox who last year refused to comply with a

supreme court order to recognise non-orthodox conversions, now backs Kleiner.

He called in a statement released Monday that the problem is not linked to halacha.

"The question is a national one: should the country, within the framework of its limited resources, grant absorption rights to such a long list of beneficiaries?" Deri said.

More than 1.2 million Soviets have requested visa applications as Jews, according to the quasi-government Jewish Agency.

Some officials are worried that the Soviet influx, which has reached more than 63,000 since 1989 and is expected to total 150,000 this year, would lead to a chaos. Social services are overloaded and a housing shortage is fast developing.

For the orthodox, the mostly secular Soviet immigration is a threat since it may deprive them of their traditional political power.

The orthodox ministers thus began to flash numbers, saying up to 25 per cent or 30 per cent of the immigrants may be non-Jews.

Soviet Jews, quoted in Israeli newspapers, also are getting into the debate.

"The subject of immigration of non-Jews is really a difficult problem," Eugene Sukholytzky, head of the Jewish Culture Club in Baku, told the Israeli daily Haaretz. "We know that non-Jews are buying documents that they are Jewish... and we also have the widespread problem of mixed marriages."

But Sukholytzky said requiring grandfathers to come to Israel could be unfair to some immigrants "because of the biological reason that their grandparents are no longer alive and they have no other proof that they are Jewish."

Palestinian activist vows armed struggle

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A Palestinian claiming to be a commander of a PLO-linked faction in the West Bank has said his group and others will take up firearms against Israel if peace efforts fail to produce results.

"The Masked Lion, the Black Panther, the Red Eagle and other groups were established to go to armed struggle if peaceful means failed," the armed man masked with a headress told the international television news agency Visnews in an interview broadcast Monday.

The militant groups he named are linked with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the occupied territories and have on occasion had armed clashes with Israeli troops.

Palestinians fighting the 31-month-old uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied territories have confronted troops primarily with stones and petrol bombs.

Speaking from a hideout, the pistol-toting man said his group, "the Masked Lion," an affiliate of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, as well as other groups still adhered to a PLO ban on firearms in the revolt.

The PLO prohibited the use of weapons against Israel since the outbreak of the revolt in December 1987 for fear of massive Israeli reprisal. But a top PLO official was quoted as saying earlier this month that the organisation was reviewing its strategy.

Peace efforts championed by the United States and Egypt suffered a setback last month after Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who has refused to open Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo,

formed a government with far-right and ultra-religious parties. Seated in a room under a large Palestinian flag, the man said his group and others can acquire weapons to carry out military attacks against Israel.

He said they buy guns secretly from Israel, receive weapons smuggled across the border or make them at home.

One of three men standing around him carried an assault rifle that resembled a U.S.-made M-16, which he said was home-made.

Though little known, the "Masked Lion" has taken credit for killing of at least six Arabs in the Ramallah area on suspicion of being Israeli informers. Its former commander was shot and captured during a raid by Israeli forces in the West Bank town of Al Bireh.

Dressed in army fatigues, the masked man said his group would kill Arabs only if they are found to have sold land to Israel, killed or attempted to kill nationalists or if they recruited other Arabs to work for Israeli forces.

"We first try to talk collaborators out of what they are doing. If they do not listen, we threaten and then beat them. We carry out execution as a last resort," he said.

He asserted that suspected informers are forced to record a verbal confession before they are shot or stabbed to death in remote areas.

At least 223 Arabs have been killed by Palestinian activists since the outbreak of the revolt in December 1987.

Rafsanjani hits back at radicals

NICOSIA (AP) — In an attack on radical opponents and reiterating his plans to liberalise Iranian society, President Hashemi Rafsanjani has urged his people to reject "leftist, ignorant slogans."

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Rafsanjani as saying "Islam has never wanted people to live in confinement, and those who say the people accept poverty, ignorance and infirmity, do not speak the truth."

"Leftist, ignorant slogans should not be accepted," he added.

Rafsanjani, leader of a so-called pragmatic camp, advocates a tempering of the zealous 1979 Islamic revolution in favour of a moderate foreign policy, a more laissez faire economy, and post-war reconstruction.

His camp has been locked in a naked power struggle with radicals led by former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

The hardliners call for an isolationist foreign policy and a centralised economy. They believe the people should suffer hardships to strengthen the revolution, and accuse Rafsanjani of abandoning the ideals of the revolution dictated by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Rafsanjani's attack Monday was aimed at remarks made by Mohtashemi Wednesday in the radical-dominated parliament.

Mohtashemi, who won the powerful Tehran seat in the 270-member parliament last year after he was dumped from Rafsanjani's cabinet, said Wednesday that a truly Islamic economy should be totally centralised.

He also attacked Rafsanjani's attempts to seek normal international relations, and criticised a decision by the Assembly of Experts to downgrade the criteria for membership of the high-ranking body.

"The present age is the age of international organisations and of communication," Rafsanjani told a gathering of Friday prayer leaders in Tehran. "If we sever our links we will not be able to live, and we should not make enemies without any cause."

"The basis of Iran's foreign policy is to eliminate foreign influence whether from the East or the West and the elimination of dependency," he said.

"We should act in such a way that we possess the ability to manoeuvre... regardless of what some ignorant and naive individuals may say," Rafsanjani added.

The radical-dominated parliament has stonewalled Rafsanjani's economic plans, his government's attempts to seek international loans and attract foreign investment to boost Iran's sluggish, post-war economy.

Rafsanjani also referred to Mohtashemi's criticism of the Assembly of Experts and said "attempts by any person or movement to weaken this body is treason and should not be tolerated."

The Assembly of Experts has the final word on constitutional amendments.

The English-language Tehran Times, which is close to the government, Monday openly attacked Mohtashemi's remarks.

"It is not clear on what grounds one can interpret the Islamic economy as identical with a fully state-controlled economy," the paper said.

In an uncharacteristically vehement attack, the paper added that "support for the now moribund socialist and full state-run economy is not only a move to weaken the government and the president's economic policies but an attempt to force the Islamic republic into a deadlock and ultimately cause it to crash."

Ben Ali ponders next move in democratisation

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

TUNIS — Tunisia's President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali is pondering the next step towards the democracy he promised his country but both leftist and rightist opponents accuse him of dragging his feet.

After free and fair local elections in neighbouring Algeria last month, and freedom sweeping Eastern Europe, his progress looks increasingly modest, diplomats and political sources say.

The president came to power in November 1987 with a pledge to introduce a Western-style multi-party system. Opponents say little has changed since the days of President Habib Bourguiba, when Tunisia was one-party state.

Ben Ali's Democratic Constitutional Rally (RCD) party holds all the seats in parliament. In local elections on June 10, boycotted by the

opposition on the grounds they would not be fair, it won control of 245 out of 246 local councils.

Ben Ali is making a speech on Republic Day Wednesday but political sources say he will probably wait till September, the traditional start of the political year, before announcing how he plans to break the political deadlock.

His party has made token concessions to the two wings of the opposition, the secularists on the left and an influential Islamic movement on the right, but neither is satisfied with the extent or pace of reform.

"The superficial solutions by which the government has routinely dealt with the breakdown in the democratic process have not prevented a slow decay which in the long term poses a serious danger," the Independent League for the Defence of Human Rights said in a statement last week.

Ben Ali's defenders say he

has to move slowly because if he allowed a political free-for-all, the Islamic right, organised around the unrecognised Nahdha Movement, could come to power and restore authoritarian rule.

Candidates backed by the Nahdha won 13 per cent of the popular vote in parliamentary elections in April 1989, far more than any other opposition group. RCD sources say it is clearly the second political force in the country of 7.6 million people.

But Ben Ali, in an interview with West German radio last week, dismissed the Nahdha, saying it was not part of the political equation because it had no legal status.

Mohammad Moada, leader of the recognised opposition, said in an interview last week the government was mistaken in believing it could pick and choose participants in a multi-party system.

"Those who advocate not

recognising the Nahdha Movement are incapable of confronting it democratically. Those who ask the government not to give it a licence are in fact afraid of dialogue," he added.

The Nahdha, in a harshly worded end-of-year political report released Sunday, said Tunisia was at a "serious impasse."

"Political detentions and trials are on the increase, torture has reappeared and the government is continuing its policy of starving out (members of the Islamic movement) by refusing to give them back their jobs," it said.

"In short, the country is moving backwards, it is in deep crisis and the paternalistic and selective approach adopted by the government and the ruling party limit the scope for breaking out of the crisis," it added.

The human rights league has also revived allegations of torture. The Interior Ministry de-



Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali

ned the allegations and said it punished all cases where policemen used violence against prisoners.

Ben Ali, 53, a former army officer, rose to be interior minister and then prime minis-

ter for the last five weeks of Bourguiba's presidency. He took over constitutionally after doctors declared Bourguiba unfit to rule due to senility.

In his last political initiative on May 1, Ben Ali offered to bring "other views" into the parliament but gave no indication of how this might happen.

Commentators have speculated that he might arrange for the recognised opposition parties to win some of the parliamentary seats at stake in by-elections later this year.

The idea is in line with what RCD sources say is a strategy of making concessions to the secular parties to prevent them joining forces with the Nahdha.

But Moada, secretary general of the Movement of Socialist Democrats, the largest recognised opposition group, said this was not the answer.

"What is needed is a sound democratic climate," he told the weekly magazine Realities.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programme
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Cairo news message
18:30 Local programme
20:30 News in Arabic
20:35 Arabic series
21:30 Arabic programme
22:00 News in Arabic
22:40 Play

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 L'Ami Moupenant
19:00 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 You Rang M/Lord
21:10 Documentary
22:00 News in English
22:20 Summer Lease

PRAYER TIMES

06:11 Fajr
06:41 (Sunrise) Doha
12:42 Dhuhur
16:23 'Asr
19:43 Maghreb
21:13 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 62785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 626543.

American Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 683326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811235.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northerly to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly to moderate and sea calm.

Min./max. temp. 19 / 32

Aqaba 25 / 39

Deserts 18 / 38

Jordan Valley 21 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-

man 31, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings:

Amman 33 per cent, Aqaba 18 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Abdul Majid Al Shair 791405

Dr. Mohammad Azam 815925

Dr. Khalid Elde 671129

Dr. Abdul-Aziz Abu Khalaf 622320

Firas Pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 637055

Nabroukh pharmacy 623672

Al Salan pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644045

Shmeisat pharmacy 637650

IRBID:

Dr. Tawfiq Al Bayyad (-)

Al Shams pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Rafea Atallah (-)

Khalifah pharmacy 985417

RESOURCES:

Jordan University collects manuscripts

AMMAN (Petra) — The Documentation and Manuscripts Centre at the University of Jordan is currently involved in collecting photocopies of 7,200 Arab manuscripts found at the National Library in Paris at an expected overall cost of 1.5 million French francs, according to an announcement by Dr. Mohammad Adnan Al Bakhit, the university's vice-president.

He said that the centre has been raising money to cover the cost of this important project from various organisations, countries and individuals.

"So far the centre has raised JD 21,000 in addition to half a million French francs, but pledges for further donations were made by national companies and institutions," he said.

According to Bakhit, the centre collected half a million French francs from Saleh Abdullah Kamel from Saudi Arabia, JD 5,000 from the Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Committee, JD 2,500 from a group of Jordanian banks, JD 4,000 from the Jordanian Cables and Wires Company, JD 5,000 from Abdul Muhsein Qattan, JD 2,000 from the National Bank, and JD 2,144 from Dr. Kamal Shaer.

"The project is very important for researchers and scholars of the Arab World and the copies will be kept at the centre to offer this service," Bakhit added.

He said that the centre would also continue the process of photocopying newspapers published under the Ottoman rule about matters related to the Arab World.

Referring to a general conference on "Bilal Al-Sham," held here last March, Bakhit said that a special ad hoc committee had completed the process of evaluating the various research papers presented to the conference and they are now being printed.

Furthermore, the centre is holding negotiations with French scholars and researchers to enlist their cooperation in studies on Franco-Arab relations since the beginning of the 14th century AD.



A drug-sniffing dog at work at Queen Alia International Airport (Petra photo)

2.1-kg heroin haul sniffed out

AMMAN (J.T.) — Police at Queen Alia International Airport seized 2.1 kilograms of heroin hidden in a secret part of a handbag carried by a non-Jordanian Arab about to board a plane for Montreal.

Colonel Akhwan Al Shamaileh, director of the airport's security unit, said the police used sniffing dogs as it would have been more difficult to find the illicit merchandise otherwise.

"The man whose identity was not revealed, had been under police suspicion ever since he had crossed into Jordan from Syria at Ramtha border post and had

been under constant police surveillance over the past week," Shamaileh said.

He said that police moved in to detain the man only after he had completed all formalities to board the plane. "The man is now being interrogated," Shamaileh added.

Last May airborne forces and speedboats seized 690 kilograms of hashish with a street value of JD 700,000 and arrested an undisclosed number of Jordanians as well as other Arab nationals in two separate operations.

The first was in the waters of

the Gulf of Aqaba, where anti-drug forces seized 350 kilograms of hashish, the second operation took place in the north east of the country near the border with Syria, where the badia police and border patrols seized 340 kilograms of hashish of Lebanese origin. At least 10 people were arrested in the second operation.

More than 150 people from Jordan and other Arab states have been arrested in over eight months in what police authorities described as a stepped-up anti-narcotics campaign to stem drug trafficking in the Kingdom.

Soviet parliamentarians seek to allay Arab fears

Soviet Union plans to pass law on immigration

By Marian M. Shabib
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A delegation of Soviet parliamentarians said Tuesday that they were well aware of the Arab concern over the influx of Jews into Israeli occupied Arab lands and that the Soviet government planned to pass legislation which would allow Soviet emigrants to return to the Soviet Union if they wished.

"In September we plan to pass a new law which would allow emigrants to return home if they wished," Dmitri Venediktov told journalists during a press conference Tuesday.

The move to change the law would change the status of emigrants significantly, since those who emigrated were previously not allowed to return, the Soviet parliamentarian explained.

A delegation of three parliamentarians ended a three-day visit to Jordan after meeting with members of the Jordanian legislative body as well as senior Jordanian government officials.

The group told reporters that the new law, expected to be passed in September would also allow Soviet emigrants to

keep their Soviet nationality.

"We understand Arab fears over the issue of possible settlement of more Jews in the occupied territories and we want to reiterate President Gorbachev's statement vis-a-vis the measures that the Soviet Union is willing to take if Soviet Jewish emigrants settle in the West Bank and Gaza," said Valentin Tetienov, another member of the Soviet delegation.

The Soviet president had made statements last month threatening to halt the flow of Soviet Jews to Israel unless Israel made assurances that the new immigrants would not be settled in the occupied territories.

Members of the delegation said that the Soviet Union "could not but allow emigrants to leave the Soviet Union, because the country was bound to respect the right of the individual to travel wherever he or she wanted."

Members of the delegation said that they did not approve of the violation of "the human rights of the Palestinians by Israelis or Jewish immigrants."

Asked if they would support, or at least not condemn, armed resistance to the settle-

ment of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories, the parliamentarians said that they did not approve of a military solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Tetienov called the Arab-Israeli conflict the "oldest, most difficult and most dangerous world conflict" and said that it could only be solved by diplomatic measures and pressure by Arab countries, Western European countries as well as the United States and Soviet Union.

"After several experiences with military solutions in several cases, including Hungary in 1956, Czechoslovakia in 1968 and Afghanistan, we recommend that the solution to the conflict in the Middle East be brought about through the use of diplomacy and other 'peaceful' methods," Tetienov said.

Mohammad Yousoufov, another member of the delegation, said that the possibilities for trade and commercial cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Arab World were "endless."

"Once the Soviet Union implements its market economy plan, cooperation in the fields of cultural exchange, tourism and trade are literally limitless," Yousoufov said.

Zarqa municipality to facelift the city

ZARQA (J.T.) — The municipal council in Zarqa, elected last month, plans to carry out development projects and improve conditions in the city, said Yasser Omari the new mayor of Zarqa in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Omari said that the council had decided to introduce changes in the municipality's administrative structure and conduct studies designed to introduce drastic changes to poor districts.

The council has decided to remove the brick works from the city to a new site, a project which cost the municipality JD 140,000, and will remove all street vendors from their present area to a point south of the Zarqa refugee camp.

He said these measures were being taken to ensure public health safety in the city.

"The municipal council has allocated JD 400,000 to repair

and re-asphalt the city's streets following a series of diggings that made some of the roads impassable," Omari said.

He said that the municipal council was faced with the problem of illegal building on state-owned land and unorganised construction work in many areas.

Another problem, he said, is related to rent collection. The council has been able to collect JD 100,000 in rent from people making use of municipality-owned property, but the total rent required is JD 378,928 annually, said Omari.

He said that the municipality relies on its own resources to finance different development schemes and municipal services.

This year, he said, the municipality has a total budget of JD 5.2 million which will be spent on such projects and improvements especially roads and streets.

Jordan, Canada agree to expand air services

AMMAN (J.T.) — Canada and Jordan have concluded an expanded air transport agreement providing for cooperation in air services between the two countries. The agreement was announced by Canada's Secretary of State Joe Clark and Minister of Transport Doug Lewis provides for the expansion of direct air services as well as increased commercial opportunities for the national airlines of the two countries.

"I am pleased that the agreement will strengthen further the links of friendship and trade be-

tween Canada and Jordan which have grown substantially since the visit to Canada by His Majesty King Hussein in October last year," Clark said upon announcing the agreement.

The agreement will enable Royal Jordanian (RJ) the national airline to serve Toronto in addition to the existing right to serve Montreal.

RJ plans to extend its existing services between Amman and Montreal to Toronto in the spring of 1991, according to the announcement.

The agreement, which was signed by Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Director Mahmoud Balqaz and Canadian officials, also provides for improved flexibility for an eventual Air Canada service to Amman.

In the meantime, it said, RJ services to Canada will be operated jointly with Air Canada.

RJ started to fly twice a week to Montreal in July 1989 and the new deal is seen as an expansion to allow RJ planes to land in Toronto as well during their flights to Canada.

Jordan, Libya to strengthen cooperation in health care

AMMAN (J.T.) — A team of officials from the Ministry of Health in Libya is due here Wednesday to conclude contracts with Jordanian specialists to work in Libyan hospitals and health centres.

The Ministry of Health here called on all concerned specialists to contact the Libyan mission in the coming three days to arrange for their employment.

The Health Ministry in Amman had concluded a deal with the Libyan health authorities in 1988 to promote bilateral cooperation in health fields and to increase the exchange of expertise.

Cooperation under the deal also covers twinning hospitals in the two countries, providing training for teams from Libya and

Jordan at health institutions in either country and the exchange of visits by university medical staff as well as cooperation in the pharmaceutical industries.

According to the Health Ministry, a total of 70 Jordanian physicians are already employed in Libyan health centres and hospitals.



Saeed Al Hajiri's Rothmans Ford Bronco

Desert raid — an endurance test

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The 1990 desert challenge is viewed as the toughest form of car rallying. The third round in the Middle East championship will be held in Jordan on July 26 and 27.

The 'Jordan Cross Country' raid, one of the motorists' activity, is mainly a daring, adventurous act. According to a press officer, "the raid" takes place within the boundaries of one country on any type of rough terrain so the cars are specifically designed for running on such roads."

So far 23 participants from Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Lebanon and Jordan are competing along the 500 kilometre desert route which starts from the Inter-Continental Hotel at three o'clock, through Iraq Al Amir, near Wadi Sir to Hindud Shand on the first day. The second day, the competitors will face the dirt roads of the Mudeisat area down to Swagga and back north to the Alia Gateway, where the drivers will regroup and repeat the route again. The finish will be at the Hotel Inter-Continental at 6.30.

In a press conference held

Tuesday, Saeed Al Hajiri, the Arab World's number one driver from Qatar, who is also competing in the 'raid', confirmed that he will ride in this week's 'raid' on a Rothmans Ford Bronco, otherwise known as the 'mean machine'. "The unique characteristic of the Bronco is that it has a Ford C6 automatic gearbox which is the first ever used in a Middle East championship," Hajiri says. "It is not so easy to drive but I have enough to do without changing gears," he adds. The benefit of this automatic gearbox is that it handles all the power from the engine whatever the condition may be. "I think my chances of winning in Jordan and earning international success are high because of the Bronco and my co-driver," Hajiri maintains.

The world class co-driver, Fred Gallagher, is for the first time teaming up with Hajiri. Gallagher has co-driven for some of the world's finest drivers and has competed throughout the world.

Gallagher is looking forward to participating in this week's 'raid'. "For me Jordan is the perfect place for a rally to take place because it has the variety of the desert and the mountains."

The drivers are warming up for the great international event with last minute technical examinations, going over the routes again, gathering mental concentration and stamina. This event is particularly exciting for the drivers and co-drivers because there is one secret stage where the competitors will drive through as fast as possible oblivious to what they might face; unlike all other stages, the route of that secret stage will be given to the co-driver just before the start of that stage.

Meeting tackles Islamic culture, education

AMMAN (Petra) — An Islamic educational conference opened in Amman Tuesday with the participation of 150 Muslim scholars from around the Islamic World.

A total of 30 working papers dealing with Islamic culture, Islamic education and the role of Islamic research work will be reviewed by delegates from Jordan and seven Arab and foreign countries, according to Ismael Al Farhan chairman of a committee that prepared for the meetings.

"This conference is one link in a long chain of efforts to promote Islamic education," Farhan said before the meetings started.

"The conference will focus attention on research work in Islamic culture, review literature on Islamic education and the basic principles in Islamic education to benefit contemporary societies," Farhan said.

"The participants shoulder a serious responsibility in presenting the present and future generations with a model educational pattern that can help Islamic societies overcome various challenges and problems," he added.

"The delegates will seek to apply sound Islamic theories in educational institutions following the Islamic awakening which has now engulfed many Arab and Islamic nations," Farhan said.

"A proposal for establishing a data bank to provide information on Islamic education will be discussed," he added.

Other speakers included Dr. Taha Jabar from the World Islamic Cultural Institute in Washington, Dr. Awad Khleifat, president of Muta University and Dr. Ali Mahafza, Yarmouk University president.

According to Farhan, the following countries have sent scholars to take part in the four-day meetings which were sponsored by Yarmouk and Muta universities in cooperation with other Islamic organisations: Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iraq, the United Kingdom, the United States, Turkey and Yemen.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Radeina and Ruba Haddad at the Housing Bank Complex hall.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by ten Iraqi artists at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery — tel. No. 699914.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting Arabians and other horses by Henri Basy at the Philadelphia Hotel.
- ★ Comprehensive Islamic book exhibition at Yarmouk University.

JERASH FESTIVAL

- ★ Concerts by the Jordan Armed Forces Band (6:00 - 7:00 p.m.), a local folk troupe (7:00 - 8:00) an Indian folk troupe (8:30 - 9:30 p.m.) at the Forum.
- ★ Concert by Al Falaheh singing troupe at the South Theatre — 8:30 p.m.
- ★ Play for children entitled "Cinderella" at Artemis Steps — 7:30 p.m.

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Japanese woman recalls pain of 'golden lotus'

By Miya New
Reuter

HONG KONG — Leung Suet-Chun is confined to a wheelchair, her deformed feet propped up on supports in front of her.

When 93-year-old Leung was a girl it was too painful for her to walk and she was carried on the back of a maid. For most of her life she could only walk slowly and with difficulty.

Leung is one of Hong Kong's very few remaining "golden lotus" women, who used tight cloth bindings to compress their

feet to the tiny size that was once considered both attractive and a sign of breeding.

"My mother told me to start binding my feet when I was nine years old," Leung, who was born in the small town of Xinhui in China's southern Guangdong Province, said through an interpreter.

"I was engaged when I was eight and my husband's family wanted me to have bound feet by the time I married," she said. "It was very painful and often I cried all night and could not sleep, but I could never leave the bandages off."

The exact origins of foot-binding are not known, but the custom may have started late in the Tang Dynasty (618-907 A.D.) when maidens at a local ruler's court were told to bind their feet when dancing of a golden lotus structure shaped like a lotus flower. golden lotus became a euphemism for bound feet.

The practice was not widespread until after the fourteenth century during the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties.

Wealthy families would make their young daughters, whose bones were still soft and pliable,

bind their four small toes back and under the sole of their feet and compress the heel and front of the foot together.

The large toe was left extended to give the foot, clad in dainty and embroidered shoes that were part of the bound feet culture, a sharp, pointed appearance.

The ideal length for a golden lotus was three inches (eight centimetres), though few women could achieve that size.

Leung, whose feet are now unbound, could not remember how large her feet were when bound but said they were much smaller.

Women suffered excruciating pain and often complete immobility for the social status of bound feet, which, as they made it impossible for a woman to work, demonstrated her leisure and affluence.

"My mother said I would be taken for a servant unless I bound my feet," said Leung.

"When my feet were bound I could not walk and was carried about by a maid on her back," she said. "I had nothing to do at home except sewing and embroidery."

The custom also had strong sexual overtones.

Women wore special scarlet shoes in bed at night as the contrast with their skin colour was said to heighten male desire.

"Prostitutes with bound feet — the smaller the better — could ask a higher price," said Elizabeth Sin, an historian at Hong Kong University.

The odour of the feet, which occasionally turned gangrenous, was also said to be erotic.

Leung said she washed her feet every second day and used a powder to absorb the perspiration.

At the turn of the century Western missionaries and liberal

Chinese influenced by Western ideas began to set up "natural foot societies" calling for an end to the custom.

Chinese defenders of the practice said at least it did not damage internal organs as did the tight corsets worn by Western women.

A series of government decrees, after the 1911 revolution that overthrew China's Manchu rulers, outlawed foot-binding.

"The colonial government here in Hong Kong didn't legislate against it because they didn't need to — the social movement against it brought it to an end," said Maria Jaschok, a researcher

of Chinese women's history. Leung said her husband, whom she married when she was 15, insisted she take off the bindings.

"I was very happy, but my mother-in-law was not. She said no one in her house could have big feet and, anyway, she always thought my feet were not small enough," Leung said.

"It was very painful because my feet were growing in the opposite direction. I had to put my feet in a special solution every day to relieve the pain.

"I don't think bound feet are beautiful."

'Soviet Jewish influx portends a more right-wing Israel'

By Kate Casa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Up to 3 million Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel within the next decade will reinforce the conservative political trends that brought about the formation of the most right-wing government in the history of the Jewish state, according to demographics experts here. The result, they warn, could be the creation of "another Israel" in the Middle East.

Dr. Fouzi Sahawneh, chairman of the Population Studies Department of the University of Jordan, said in a recent interview that massive Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel could overshadow the diminishing segment of Israeli society which supports a land-for-peace settlement with the Palestinians. Sahawneh pointed out that statistically, Jews from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union lean politically to the right.

Projections of the number of Soviet Jews immigrating to Israel since the United States capped its immigration level last year at 40,000 annually, continue to spiral upward. A report from Tel Aviv last week put the number at as many as 12 million, according to former Soviet Jewish dissident Meir Sharan.

At Jordan University's demographics department, one of only two in the Middle East, professors are working with figures that project a possible maximum of 3 million immigrants within the next decade, or as many as 1 million within the next two to three years. But according to Sahawneh

and his colleague, Dr. Ahmad Hammouda, Arab governments are not yet rising to the challenge that such a massive immigration rate holds for the region. Hammouda predicted that an influx of up to 3 million Jews over the next decade will bolster Israel's expansionist tendencies.

"I think we are facing the creation of another Israel in the Arab World," Hammouda said. "It took 40 years for four-and-a-half million Jews to gather in Palestine. Now we're talking about up to 3 million gathering there in the next three to four, or at the outside, 10 years."

Asked how Arab governments are responding to the issue, Sahawneh said, "I don't think anybody is doing anything, not in the demographics field or any other field, in terms of planning for this eventuality. Maybe the governments are going something that we don't know about, but as far as we can see it's not encouraging."

The professor said he believes Soviet Jewish immigration is only the first step in a long-term Israeli plan to gather more Jews from throughout the world and ultimately expel Palestinians from what is left of their land. However, he said, he does not anticipate an Israeli incursion into Jordanian territory until a second wave of immigrants comes to Israel, perhaps around the turn of the century.

Whatever the time frame, Hammouda feels certain Israel will attempt to expand its borders eventually. "They have already crossed the borders into Lebanon and Syria," he

pointed out, "and they've neutralised Egypt, so the only possibility left is Jordan, which is the weakest part of the fence around Israel."

Another factor in the expansionist equation, Hammouda said, is that Jews have been taught not that Palestine is their land, but that greater Israel is their land — an area that includes everything between the Nile and the Euphrates. "So it's not a matter of 'if,'" Hammouda added, "but 'when'."

The professors predicted that the large influx of Soviet Jews will also galvanise Israel's political right wing. "Jews from Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and Arab countries tend to vote mostly on the ultra-right," Sahawneh said, "and I think this is what brought the Likud to power." He pointed out that a major political shift occurred in Israel during the mid-1970s when the migration of Eastern Jews began to surpass those coming from the west.

"Therefore," Sahawneh continued, "you can now expect that the influence of the West and Western-educated people will become less. I think we can expect to see less (Shimon) Peres and (Abba) Eban-types and more (Yitzhak) Shamir-types in Israel."

According to Sahawneh and Hammouda, although many Eastern Jews come from societies in which they themselves were repressed or forbidden human and civil rights, they are disinclined to support Palestinian rights because hatred for the indigenous population of Palestine is "implanted" in their minds even

before they arrive in Israel.

Said Sahawneh: "Although the majority of the immigrants to Israel now come from the East, the East is not one but many cultures. So there is nothing in common between those people except one thing: that they are being told 'this is your promised land. This is the land where you will live the rest of your lives. This is your ancestral home. And those Palestinians are threatening us. This is our land.' So they can all unite around a common cause which is: 'It's us or them.'"

Although immigration has been a central pillar of Zionism since the foundation of the movement, Sahawneh and Hammouda predict the massive influx of Soviet Jewry will be a mixed blessing for Israel. On the beneficial side for Israel, Sahawneh said, the incoming Soviets will provide an easily manageable, easily trainable labour force.

A large percentage of the Soviet Jews are expected to be between the ages of 15 and 65. Only about 25 per cent are age

15 and under and about 10 to 12 per cent are age 65 and older, the professors said.

Therefore, their impact on the educational system may be more manageable than on, for example, health or housing services. However, the professors predict Israel will be unable to absorb the huge labour force and unemployment could skyrocket to as much as 40 per cent in the next several years.

"For the immigrants right now, it's a honeymoon trip," Sahawneh said. "They have come to the promised land. Housing and jobs are being provided, but how long can Israel keep up this charade? And several years down the road, when the subsidies run out and unemployment and inflation are high, they may begin to think of migrating again."

However, with many Western countries such as the United States and Canada sharply curtailing the number of immigrants they accept, Hammouda pointed out, the immigrants could find themselves on a "one-way trip."



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PROLOGUE SPECIAL STAGE, THURSDAY 26TH JULY
Maximum speed test to determine the starting order for the afternoon section starts at exactly 10.00 a.m. and can be viewed from the airport highway between the Madaba and Na'ur interchanges. From Amman drive towards the International Airport, at the sign to Kan Zaman and Bisharat Horse Club pass under the highway and return towards Amman for approximately one kilometre. The track used by the rally cars is next to the highway on the right.

START OF THE RAID, THURSDAY 26TH JULY AT 3.00 P.M.

FINISH OF THE FIRST PART AT 6.30 P.M.

RESTART OF THE RAID, FRIDAY 27TH JULY AT 10.00 A.M.

FINISH OF THE SECOND PART, FRIDAY 27TH JULY AT 6.15 P.M.

All at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel.

SERVICING OF THE COMPETING CARS AND REGROUPING, FRIDAY 27TH JULY, 1.00 P.M. TO 2.45 P.M. at the Ala Gateway Hotel.

Spectators are reminded that cars will be travelling at very high speed on the special stages so please stand well clear of the rally route in the interests of your safety.

Lewis loses to Burrell in 100 metres

Goodwill Games marred by brawl on basketball court, Soviet defection

SEATTLE (AP) — Leroy Burrell beat Carl Lewis in the 100 metres in a day of confrontation at the Goodwill Games, where ill will ruled on the basketball court.

While the United States' star shone brightly in the swimming pool with a third gold medal for Janet Evans and a rare victory over East Germany in a women's relay, a couple of basketball stars blew out in a flurry of fists and angry words Monday.

The Americans beat Puerto Rico 100-94 in their opening game, but only after Alonzo Mourning of the U.S. team and Jose Ortiz of Puerto Rico fought to a rather inarticulate tie.

Both were ejected for fistfighting in the first half as the United States began its quest for another sort of vengeance.

The Americans face the Soviets on Tuesday night, the team that beat America and won the gold medal in the 1988 Seoul Olympics. They have not met since at this level.

Track and field

While the basketball players were squaring off with their fists, Americans Burrell and Lewis settled their score in a more sporting fashion. Burrell won the gold medal in 10.05 seconds. Lewis was second in 10.08.

Lewis, 29, the world record-holder, had beaten Burrell, the top sprinter in the world this year, all five times they met

previously, but they hadn't met this year.

"Leroy was sharper and he did what he had to do," Lewis said. "I'm still at it, and we'll be back. This should give America a great 1-2 punch for a long time."

Lewis broke in the lead, but Burrell strode smoothly ahead of Lewis about halfway through the race and held on for the victory. "I didn't get my characteristic start, but I felt I would be in it," said Burrell, whose 9.94 earlier this year was only .02 off Lewis' world record. "I'm excited, but I'm more excited because I was able to adjust to all the pressure."

Jackie Joyner-Kersey hoped to break her world record of 7.291 points in the heptathlon, perhaps even become the first woman to break the 7,300 mark in this seven-event test. But two poor performances Sunday dashed those hopes.

Still, she easily repeated her 1986 Goodwill Games victory with 6,783 points.

Basketball

Mourning, of Georgetown, hit a free throw with 8:01 left in the first half, and as the ball went through the net, Ortiz and Mark Randall of Kansas hit the floor. Mourning, 6-foot-9, walked off

the line and said something to Ortiz, 6-11. Ortiz slapped at Mourning, who swung wildly in retaliation. When Ramon Rivas of Puerto Rico missed a sucker punch from behind Mourning, both benches emptied.

"I was trying to get position and slipped after I was nudged," Randall said. "The next thing I knew, guys were flying over me. I think Alonzo was just trying to protect his teammates."

Referees restored order and ejected Mourning and Ortiz. Billy Owens scored 34 points for the Americans, who trailed by 10 points before the fight and led by as many as 12 in the second half.

Swimming

Evans, who won three swimming gold medals in Seoul, won her third of these games when she captured the 1,500-metre freestyle in the second-fastest time ever, and 17-year-old Summer Sanders captured her second gold, stamping herself as a swimmer to watch at the Barcelona Olympics in two years.

But the most startling performance of the meet was turned in by the U.S. women's 400-metre medley relay team, which set an American record and beat the East Germans for the first time since 1978.

The U.S. 400-metre medley relay team of Betsy Mitchell, Tracey McFarlane, Janel Jorgensen and Nicole Haislett set an

American record of 4:06.94 in winning the gold medal. The old record was 4:07.75.

The U.S. 'B' team was second, with the East Germans third. No U.S. women's team had beaten an East German relay team since the 1978 World Championships.

Evans' time in the 1,500 was 15 minutes, 54.23 seconds. It was 2.13 seconds off the world record she set two years ago in Orlando, Florida, the last time she swam the distance.

She finished nearly 18 seconds ahead of second-place Haley Lewis of Australia.

"I knew pretty much in this race I was going to have to swim against the clock," Evans said.

Sanders, who will be Evans' teammate at Stanford this fall, added a victory in the women's 200-metre individual medley to the gold medal she won in the 400 medley two days ago in beating Evans.

Soviet hockey star defects

A Soviet hockey star defected from his team at the Goodwill Games and was seeking to join the Detroit Red Wings of the National Hockey League (NHL), sports officials say.

Sergei Fedorov, a 20-year-old centre on the Soviet national team, disappeared after a preliminary game Sunday with the U.S. team in Portland, Oregon, said an official of USA Hockey, the governing body for amateur hockey in this country.

The Red Wings picked Fedorov in round 4 of the 1989 National Hockey League entry draft.

Fedorov appeared upset after earning a gross misconduct penalty in Sunday's game and left a team dinner early, said the official, who spoke on the condition he not be identified.

Fedorov never showed up at his hotel room and didn't travel with the Soviet team to Kennewick, Washington, Monday, the official said.

"We don't have any ill feelings toward the player," said Yuri Korolev, vice president of the Soviet Ice Hockey Federation. "We didn't want to begin the Goodwill Games with such an incident."

"I would rather not comment on that," Red Wings Assistant General Manager Nick Polano said when asked Tuesday about Fedorov joining the team.

WDIV-TV in Detroit reported that Fedorov either was in Detroit or on his way here late Monday. The station, quoting unidentified sources in Seattle and Detroit, said Red Wings officials were talking with Fedorov about joining the NHL club.

Korolev said he was willing to talk with the Red Wings about Fedorov but wanted him to rejoin the Soviet national team at the Goodwill Games.

"We are willing to have negotiations with Detroit if the player is returned," he said. "If the player is not returned, there is nothing to discuss. We are talking

MEDAL TABLE

	G	S	B	Tot
United States	25	27	17	69
Soviet Union	20	23	16	59
East Germany	8	4	16	28
West Germany	3	2	3	8
Netherlands	1	1	4	6
China	1	2	2	5
Spain	2	2	0	4
Italy	1	2	1	4
Hungary	1	1	1	3
Australia	0	2	1	3
Cuba	2	0	0	2
Poland	2	0	0	2
Canada	1	0	1	2
Romania	0	1	1	2
Czechoslovakia	1	0	0	1
Denmark	1	0	0	1
Jamaica	1	0	0	1
Mexico	1	0	0	1
Surinam	1	0	0	1
Ethiopia	0	1	0	1
Kenya	0	1	0	1
Britain	0	0	1	1
Brazil	0	0	1	1
Ireland	0	0	1	1

about the Goodwill Games and there has been no good will."

The Soviet sports system allows hockey players to join NHL clubs once they reach age 28, Korolev said.

TBS could lose \$26m

Turner said Monday that Turner Broadcasting System Inc. could lose as much as \$26 million on the Goodwill Games — doubling earlier projections from the company.

Asked if losses this summer would equal the \$26 million shortfall from the 1986 Goodwill Games in Moscow, the TBS board chairman said the deficit would be "in that range."

Gonzalez retains boxing title

LOS ANGELES (R) — Humberto "Cisquito" Gonzalez of Mexico retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) light-flyweight title when he stopped Lim Jung-Kun of South Korea in the fifth round of a scheduled 12-round bout.

The 24-year-old Gonzalez, making the fourth defence of the title he won last year, dominated the fight from start to finish with his superior power and punching ability.

The champion knocked down the number one ranked challenger late in the fourth round. Gonzalez had Lim ready to hit the canvas once more when referee Rudy Ortega stopped the bout just 34 seconds into the fifth round.

The victory improved Gonzalez's record to 28 wins and no losses with 22 knockouts.

The 25-year-old Lim, from Pusan, appearing in his first world title bout, saw his record drop to 12 wins and five losses.

The fight began somewhat slowly with each boxer cautious in the opening round.

In the second round Gonzalez took charge repeatedly connecting to the challenger's head with effective lefts.

With 20 seconds left in the fourth round, Gonzalez hit the South Korean with a flurry of punches and knocked him down with a left. But Lim rose to his feet and survived the few remaining seconds left in the fourth.

However, in the fifth a determined looking Gonzalez went to work quickly.

He put the challenger against the ropes and connected with repeated strong punches when the referee stepped in and stopped the bout.

Lim's only brief moment of glory came in the early part of the fourth round when he connected with a clear left to Gonzalez's head.

But the blow did not have anything close to the power of the

champion's punches and did no damage.

Nelson to fight Laporte in Sydney

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Former title holder Azumah Nelson of Ghana will face Puerto Rican Juan Laporte in an eliminator for the World Boxing Council super-featherweight championship in Sydney on Sept. 7, promoter Bill Mordey announced Tuesday.

Nelson relinquished the title earlier this year and made an unsuccessful challenge for the WBC lightweight title held by American Pernell Whitaker.

He has a 31-2 record. Laporte is 36-9-1.

Mordey said the winner of the fight would face Australian Jeff Fenech for the title in November at a venue still to be decided.

Brazil boss denies Falcao is new coach

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Ricardo Teixeira, president of the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF), has denied reports that former World Cup star Falcao had been appointed coach of the national team.

Teixeira, son-in-law of FIFA (International Football Federation) President Joao Havelange, told a press conference at the CBF headquarters he had still to decide who would succeed Sebastiao Lazaroni.

"We have a lot of time before the team's first scheduled game in September and therefore there is no need for panic. I am going to analyse coldly all the names before making the choice," he said.

He said he had not even spoken to Falcao. "I have not been in contact with any potential coach of the Brazilian national team," he said.

He would not name any of the candidates, saying only that the new coach would be someone "who is capable of working together with other members of the training staff as part of a team."

Teixeira said he would probably make his choice within one or two weeks. He said he wanted the new coach to give more chance to home-based players.

Twelve of the 22 who represented Brazil in the 1990 World Cup were foreign-based at the time of the competition.



Claudio Chiappucci (left) and Greg Lemond during the 17th stage of the Tour de France

French hail Greg Lemond, worry about local cyclists

PARIS (AP) — Greg Lemond has become a hero to the French press and public, but his repeat victory in the Tour de France didn't mask disappointment over the worst showing by French riders since 1925.

Some young Frenchmen showed promise at different points during the three-week race, but the best of them — Fabrice Philipot — placed only 14th. In 76 previous tours, Frenchmen won 40 times.

On Monday, the day after Lemond's decisive victory, French sports writers were left to speculate whether he could join Belgian Eddie Merckx and France's two cycling immortals — Jacques Anquetil and Bernard Hinault — as the only five-time winner of the Tour.

Lemond has now won three titles — in 1986, 1989 and 1990 — placing him in a three-way tie for the most victories after Merckx, Anquetil and Hinault.

Lemond, 29, made clear he wants to keep racing. He said Sunday he expects to compete in the Tour at least three more times.

Hinault contended Monday that French cycling was not in a crisis, although he acknowledged that the best-known of his countrymen — Laurent Fignon and Charles Mottet — had been disappointments.

Fignon dropped out early, suffering from leg injuries and low spirits. Mottet finished 49th. Spain was the dominant country this year, placing four cyclists in the top 10.

"If there hadn't been a Spaniard in the top 10 in the Vuelta (Spain's premier cycling event), it would have been shameful," said Jose Miguel Echavarri, one of the managers for Spanish star Pedro Delgado.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH © 1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WE DO THE IMPOSSIBLE

Both vulnerable. South deals. NORTH ♠ Q 7 4 3 ♦ 8 7 4 3 ♣ A K 5 4 ♠ Q 10 6 3 WEST ♠ J 10 5 ♣ J 10 9 5 ♦ 10 8 2 ♠ K J 2 EAST ♠ K 7 3 ♣ K Q ♦ Q J 9 6 ♠ A 9 8 6 4 2 ♣ A 6 2 ♦ 7 3 ♠ A 9

The bidding: South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♣. At the blackjack table, the house's edge is that the dealer's second card is concealed, which forces the player to act before he knows whether the dealer has a good or bad hand. In bridge, the fact that declarer's hand is hidden can have a similar advantage.

Both North and South were aggressive in the auction. North would have liked another spade and South should have had a better suit to go on to game. But some fine card-reading and reliance on a defender's fears allowed South to sneak home.

From the opening lead and East's play of the queen at trick one, declarer deduced it was likely East had the bare king-queen of hearts. So South took the ace of hearts and immediately led ace and another club. West climbed up with the king and reverted to a heart to partner's king.

East could do no better than shift to a diamond, taken in dummy. Declarer discarded a heart on the queen of clubs, then led the queen of spades. Afraid that to cover would cost a trick if declarer's spade suit was headed by A J 10, East ducked. So did declarer.

After cashing the ace of diamonds, South came to hand with a diamond ruff to play ace and another spade. When the suit split evenly, declarer had held his losers to one trick in each suit except for diamonds. Not bad for someone who seemed to have started out with two losers in trumps, two in hearts and one in clubs.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JULY 25, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A beautiful day and evening for you to become renewed in the spirit of achieving the right pathway toward success, right-action and happiness. Keep expecting the best possible results.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your own personal progress can be greatly expedited today if you approach your activities from a new slant and then avoid making material commitments.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You need to become imbued anew with your aspirations and plan to make them work with more security if you are to succeed in obtaining them.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be on the lookout for new friends and acquaintances now for it is through them you can make your swiftest progress and don't pass over a private concern.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Consider well just how you want to be regarded by bigwigs and the general public and make plans to gain this; avoid an egotistical friend.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) Contact those persons available whom you have not known and get their views how you can best march forward to greater successes and avoid a bumpy official.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) A day to get into whatever

advanced formulas are available for you to operate more properly with those who can aid your practical progress.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Be on the quiver for some excellent suggestions from impulsive and mentally aware individuals for more advancement in world of outside activity.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A day to look into whatever printed material is at your fingertips to uncover better ways to handle your routine activities.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A jovial person will be willing to go along with a plan you have for enjoying yourself and your recreations more thoroughly so listen to him/her.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) Rely more upon your own judgment what course is best to pursue at your home so that everyone there is more contented and happy.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) A great day to get out communicating for those at a distance and in which your best judgment needs to be utilized to your advantage.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) Money and business matters should occupy your attention today so look for ways to add to your holdings and put them in effect at once.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Do you know anything about the bullet holes in the refrigerator door?"

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GUNTS

EMYTH

ANNOYE

MOINCE

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: SKUNK JETTY ABUSED BRANCH

Answer: Back in the Navy—STERN

(Answers tomorrow)

Why not join us if you love...

Now arrange the circled letters to form the prize answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Yesterday's Jumbles: SKUNK JETTY ABUSED BRANCH

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Answer: Back in the Navy—STERN

(Answers tomorrow)

Why not join us if you love...

Israel cuts food subsidies to fund more settlements

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli government slashed subsidies on basic foods Tuesday in a search for extra funds to finance the settlement of thousands of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

The cuts on a number of food items, part of a \$200 million reduction in the spending plans contained in the last budget, raised bread prices 30 per cent and the cost of chicken by six per cent.

The changes, which will save the government \$40 million a year, angered representatives of the hundreds of Israelis who have set up tent communities around the country to protest rising rents.

"They took away our houses, now they are taking away our food," a homeless person in Tel Aviv complained to one newspaper.

Homeless in the northern city of Haifa, a centre of Soviet Jewish settlement, declared a hunger strike in protest against the price rises.

The Israeli central bank, in an unusually strong criticism of a government decision, said the cut in subsidies would fuel inflation and did not solve the need for an overhaul of the budget.

"The subsidies cut is another patch on the budget, and is contrary to the government's promise not to increase prices by more than 10 per cent in 1990," the Bank of Israel said.

The government, cutting its budget 1.7 per cent, also said it would end a tax deduction for the second child in high-income families and would make El Al, Israel's national airline, pay for its own security.

Further cuts are expected soon, including subsidies on milk, eggs and transport. Economists said the higher prices would eventually percolate through the economy to cause price rises for many other goods.

The government cuts are aimed at financing the absorption of a wave of Soviet immigrants. Some 70,000 have arrived so far in 1990 and 150,000 are expected by the end of the year.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Yemen unifies prices of oil products

SANAA (R) — The Yemeni government has decided to unify the prices of consumer oil products throughout the newly established republic, Sanaa radio has said. The decision was taken at an extraordinary cabinet meeting called to discuss unification of prices of various commodities since the merger in May of North and South Yemen. Prices of oil products have been relatively high in the southern part of the country compared with those in the north. Prices of dairy and other food products were doubled in Aden district last month, prompting street protests in some parts of the city. Trade unions in Aden, which was the capital of socialist South Yemen, have threatened to strike over the price hikes.

S. Arabia reports new oil discovery

RIYADH (AP) — Oil Minister Hisham Nazer has announced the sixth discovery of an oil field in 13 months in the previously untapped central regions of the desert kingdom. Saudi Arabia already sits on a quarter of the world's proven oil reserves. Its main oil-producing zones are in the eastern provinces bordering the Gulf. In a statement distributed by the official Saudi Press Agency, Nazer said the first well drilled in the new field, Hazmich-1, struck sulphur-free oil and condensates. He gave the location of the well as 250 kilometres south of the capital Riyadh and nine kilometres south of Hawthel-1, the first oil discovery by Saudi Aramco in the central regions in June 1989. The six oil-bearing zones were located at depths between 6,000 and 7,000 feet and contain large reserves of high-grade oil and gas, the minister said. No figures have been released on reserves in the new fields. Saudi Aramco, the kingdom's giant oil-producing company, was able to tap the oil prospects of the central regions after acquiring ultra-sophisticated computers from the United States. Until then the region had been considered barren of oil.

Turkey raises minimum wages by 84%

ANKARA (R) — Turkey Tuesday raised minimum monthly wages for agricultural and industrial workers by 84 per cent to 414,000 lira (\$155) from 225,000 lira (\$84). The rise, reported by the Anatolian News Agency, is to offset annual inflation of 62.6 per cent at the end of June. It will be effective from Aug. 1. The government gave 25 per cent semi-annual salary rises to civil servants in July, sparking demonstrations by employees who expected more.

Iran announces higher tea crop

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian farmers sold 120,000 tonnes of green tea leaves to the government by the end of the spring harvest, 15,000 tonnes more than last year, the Iranian news agency IRNA has said. Iran imports about a third of its tea. In 1987, its tea crop grown in 36,000 hectares (89,000 acres) in the Caspian coast provinces of Gilan and Mazandaran yielded 45,000 tonnes of dried tea.

GIB reports rise in net profit

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf International Bank (GIB), the second-biggest offshore bank in Bahrain, has said its net profit for the first half of 1990 rose to \$32.5 million. GIB recorded a loss of \$692.5 million for the whole of 1989 after setting aside \$725 million in provisions for LDC (less developed country) debt in a bid to rid itself of the problem completely. The bank said in a statement that operating income rose to \$58.35 million in the first six months of 1990 from \$54.77 during first-half 1989. Expenses fell to \$25.47 million from \$25.53 million. Assets edged up to \$9.9 billion on June 30, 1990, from \$9.6 billion at the middle of the previous year. In line with its normal policy, GIB did not give figures for provisions. The bank is owned by the governments of Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Iraqi troop report boosts oil prices close to \$20

GENEVA (R) — Oil prices shot up Tuesday on news that Iraq moved troops near Kuwait's frontier in what Western diplomats in the Gulf said might be a scare tactic ahead of OPEC talks this week in Geneva.

The diplomats said Iraq deployed two armoured divisions near the disputed frontier. Kuwait, like its neighbour and ally Saudi Arabia, has advocated a moderate pricing system within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

OPEC delegates in Geneva said Iraq seemed to be using strongarm tactics in support of a more hawkish policy to throttle OPEC supply and drive up the cost of a barrel of oil to \$25.

London September futures for the world benchmark crude, Brent blend from the North Sea, gained almost 50 cents per barrel on the Iraq report and at 1000 GMT was \$19.60 a barrel.

Earlier threats by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein of unspecified retaliation against Kuwait and other Arab states which violated OPEC-mandated oil production quotas, depressing prices, had fuelled a two-week rally in the oil market.

The spot market average is up from around \$14 to around \$16.50 because traders think Iraqi tactics will compel alliance to a new OPEC quota pact to be negotiated at a ministerial conference starting in Geneva Thursday.

Delegates said that, at present, officials of the 13-nation OPEC, marking its 30th anniversary next month, still hoped the conference could proceed despite the new rise in tension between two founder members.

Draft proposals would have OPEC limit its total output of crude oil to just under 22.5 million barrels daily.

This would be down by one million from the average during the first six months of 1990, a period marked by rampant quota-busting, a glut and depressed prices.

Iraq, desperate for cash to rebuild an economy shattered by the 1980-88 Gulf war with Iran, says the quota violations were tantamount to aggression and were part of a U.S. plot.

OPEC's Algerian president, Sadek Boussena, has said there is already a broad consensus on the idea of an OPEC output ceiling at around 22.5 million barrels.

But other delegates said OPEC is more divided on how long to apply it. This is crucial for prices. The longer OPEC throttles supply at this level the higher they will go as refiners drain off the West's surplus stocks.

"That is not an innocent question," said Boussena, sidestepping a reporter's inquiry as to whether the new ceiling would apply until October or run until December.

Iraq has said it wants supply throttled until average prices hit \$25.

Report shows effects of low oil prices on Arab countries

ABU DHABI (R) — Low oil prices hurt the people of all Arab states, and, in a seeming paradox, hit those in non-oil producing countries hardest, according to an Arab League economic report to be published this week.

Despite efforts to diversify, "oil revenues remained the main sources of hard currency for oil and non-oil Arab states," the 21-member Arab League said in its annual economic report for 1989.

Figures in the report reflect not this year's fall in oil prices but a previous glut in 1988, when oil sold for \$14 a barrel and the combined gross domestic product of the Arab states shrank eight per cent.

But many of the report's comments clearly apply as well to the effect of this year's conflict in OPEC.

"Instability in the world oil market and prices has greatly affected the economies of producers especially Arab countries," said the report obtained by Reuters.

"The fall in real wages especially in non-oil countries has started to affect medium-income people. This will severely hurt development in the long run," the report noted.

Fewer than half the Arab countries are oil producers but the economies of the rest are affected by oil prices as they depend on aid, investments and remittances from producer countries.

The report was prepared jointly by the Arab League secretariat, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund.

The report said oil prices fell to \$14 a barrel in 1988 from \$17.3 in 1987 and despite an increase in Arab output by 1.6 million barrels per day (b/d), oil earnings dropped to \$64 billion from \$67 billion.

Total revenues fell by 3.4 per cent to \$119.6 billion and expend-

iture by 7.5 per cent to \$154 billion.

As a result, the report said the combined Arab gross domestic product (GDP) fell in 1988 to \$362 billion from \$390 billion in 1987, when it rose by 3.3 per cent due to an improvement in oil prices.

It said the 1988 decline depressed per capita income in all Arab countries, though it remained relatively high in oil producers.

Investments dropped to \$84 billion in 1988 from \$88.6 billion, and \$65.4 billion took place in the key oil producers Iraq, Libya, Algeria and the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

"This was coupled with a sharp decline in remittances and other cash flow to the countries which suffer from debts, thus further sapping their hard currency reserves," the report said.

In contrast, the farming sector expanded by 12 per cent to \$38.8 billion in 1988, mainly due to good weather.

"Arab states remain largely dependent on food imports, with an accumulating bill of \$100 billion since the early 1980s threatening the future of Arab food security," it said.

The report said it expected higher growth in the next two years in Iraq and the Gulf Arab states due to the end of the 1980-1988 Gulf war and an upswing in non-oil activities.

But in non-producers — where debts are draining the economy, exports pay for only 40 per cent of imports and investments are declining — growth is expected to remain slow, it said.

"High growth rates depend on the ability of those states to tackle economic and financial problems, rationalise the use of resources and cut debts through reforms," it said.

The report put Arab proven crude oil reserves at around 600 billion barrels, more than 60 per cent of the total world's reserves of 991 billion barrels.

Iraq said seeking Arab cancellation of war credits

BAHRAIN (R) — Debt-burdened Iraq's conflict with Kuwait is partly aimed at persuading Gulf Arab creditors to write off billions of dollars lent during the war with Iran, Gulf-based bankers and diplomats say.

They said Iraq, now the Arab World's main military power, launched its scathing verbal attack on two wealthy Gulf allies mainly to stop them producing too much oil and hitting revenues needed to fund its war-torn economy.

But Baghdad was also sending a message to its Arab aid donors — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — to write off an estimated \$30 billion of interest-free loans in order to improve its international credit rating, they said.

"If the Arab aid was written off it would improve the debt profile of Iraq — it is undoubtedly one reason for its attack on Kuwait and the UAE," a senior Arab banker said.

"Iraq doesn't intend to pay one dollar back and the Arab states don't expect to see the money again... but if they write it off it will affect the international evaluation of all the countries involved," said another.

Iraq's total debt, mainly from wartime spending, is a closely guarded secret.

But bankers and diplomats in the Gulf put the total at around \$80 billion. About \$50 billion was owed to non-Arab states and banks, mainly in export credits, they said.

Iraq last week accused Kuwait and the UAE — two chronic OPEC quota-busters — of sabotaging its economy by flooding the market with oil, helping to push prices down by around 30 per cent in the first half of this year.

It also complained to the Arab League that Kuwait had stolen more than \$2.4 billion worth of crude oil reserves from Iraq since 1980 and made other territorial infringements.

Although its oil reserves are second only to Saudi Arabia's, Iraq — unlike its Gulf Arab neighbours — suffers when crude prices are low because it cannot increase its output.

"Iraq has an immediate cash flow problem — it wants higher crude prices to service its debt and fund its economy but it also wants to send a signal to other Gulf Arab states that it is a force to be reckoned with," one regional oil analyst said.

In a message to the Arab League, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz called on Kuwait and the UAE to cancel Iraq's war debts, saying it was a "small amount" compared with \$102 billion of military supplies bought by Iraq during the war.

"The bitter fact which every Arab should know is that the basic part of the aid is still registered as a credit to Iraq... with a fraternal spirit we asked them more than a year ago to write off this credit, but they evaded the issue," he said.

Japan must improve aid quality

TOKYO (R) — Japan should improve the quality and quantity of its aid to developing nations, an economic planning agency advisory panel has said in a report.

It should increase the number of grants it gives developing countries as a proportion of overall official aid, the report said. In 1988, grants made up 46.6 per cent of Japan's total official development assistance, compared with an average 78.4 per cent among 18 other donor nations in the same period, an agency official said.

The other nations included the United States, Australia and European Community nations.

The agency report also urged Japan to increase technological aid. This made up only 12 per cent of Japan's total development aid in 1988 against an average 21.3 per cent among other donor states.

In addition, the report said Japan should focus more on technology transfers, and recommended sending more engineering consultants abroad and inviting more engineers and students to Japan for training.

To make its assistance more effective, Japan should scrutinise the economic conditions of recipients before providing aid, the agency added.

Japan is now in the middle of a five-year plan to boost aid to more than \$50 billion in 1988-1992 from \$24.9 billion in 1983-1987, an agency official said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, July 24, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	121.4	122.1
U.S. dollar	662.0	666.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	445.3	448.0
Pound Sterling	1205.4	1212.6	Dutch guilder	361.2	364.4
Deutschemark	407.1	408.4	Swedish crown	112.6	112.7
Swiss franc	477.5	480.4	Italian lira (for 100)	55.7	56.0
			Belgian franc (for 10)	197.5	198.7

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.8225/35	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1560/70	Canadian dollar	
	1.6245/50	Deutschemark	
	1.8305/15	Dutch guilders	
	1.3820/30	Swiss francs	
	33.41/46	Belgian francs	
	5.4460/4510	French francs	
	1188/1189	Italian lire	
	148.40/50	Japanese yen	
	5.9050/9100	Swedish crowns	
	6.2525/75	Norwegian crowns	
	6.1850/1900	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	368.10/60	U.S. dollars	

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Warring East German coalition partners agree to new talks

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany's warring coalition partners agreed Tuesday to new negotiations on the five-point unification, but their row looks like running all summer and could jeopardize unity elections due on Dec. 2.

The rebel Social Democrats (SPD) and Liberals agreed to resume talks with Christian Democrat (CDU) Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere but said their patience was running short.

The SPD said it would leave the government if a joint East-West German parliamentary committee did not show signs of compromise at its first meeting Thursday.

"The compromise we want is for the CDU to give up its position," SPD Foreign Minister Markus Meckel said.

The apparently trivial dispute — over how to hold pan-German elections and whether East Berlin

should accede to Bonn just before or just after the poll — has escalated, threatening to upset the tight schedule for German unity by December.

Clearly alarmed, de Maiziere has agreed to meet Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who is on holiday in Austria, for emergency talks Thursday.

The cautious East German premier, with the certain support of just under half the 400 deputies in parliament, indicated he would continue to govern even without the SPD and Liberals.

"But then the Volkskammer (parliament) would restrict itself to decisions vital for German unity. Each deputy would have to deliberate for himself whether to vote against unity," de Maiziere said in a clear warning to the coalition rebels.

de Maiziere appears to have won the upper hand in a dispute for which many commentators have no sympathy.

"Although the East German people have had their fill of crises, parliament is persisting with its storm in a teacup," the daily Bauern-Echo newspaper said. "Party political manoeuvring is getting the better of patriotic feeling."

The SPD and Liberals want accession on Dec. 1 to be declared immediately, with a single electoral system for the pan-German poll. They say this is the quickest way to tackle East Germany's crippling economic problems.

De Maiziere wants separate elections in East Germany — where there is no voting threshold — on Dec. 2 and accession only after that. He argues premature accession would force his hand in remaining unity negotiations.

A single electoral system is likely to exclude small East German parties from parliament, in-

cluding both de Maiziere's conservative allies and the Communists, who have entered an unlikely informal alliance with the CDU over the issue.

On Sunday the East German parliament stalled off an immediate government collapse by setting up the joint German Committee. But if negotiations are as difficult as the present sniping suggests, the committee may not reach agreement in time to meet the first deadlines for a December poll.

West German Interior Minister Wolfgang Schäuble said Monday Bonn may have reduced the notice period legally required for a general election from three months to two to allow more time for debate.

He added that West Germany's proportional electoral system, including a five per cent voting threshold for entry into parliament, might have to be reworked.

Doe digs in for fight to the end

ABIDJAN (R) — Liberian President Samuel Doe is digging in for a bitter fight to the finish at his fortress-like mansion in Monrovia as rebel forces shoot their way into the heart of the capital, diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

"Doe has said he is going to fight to the finish, so this means the worst possible scenario. He is going to destroy as much as possible of Monrovia before he dies," a Western diplomat in neighbouring Ivory Coast told Reuters.

He and other Abidjan-based diplomats in close touch with their embassies in Liberia said there was a confused situation in Monrovia with shooting everywhere.

One Western ambassador who ventured into the streets Monday to assess the situation was pinned down by gunfire and forced to spend the night in a colleague's house some distance away, they said.

Rebel forces which have been besieging Monrovia for the last month began a push into the city centre at the weekend.

On Monday night, correspondents in Monrovia reported fierce fighting in the downtown business district, where Doe's soldiers were firing rockets at rebel positions from high buildings.

Diplomats in Abidjan said Doe's soldiers had managed to flatten most of the rebel-occupied industrial area on Bushrod Island, northwest of the city centre, with a BM-21 "Stalin organ" multiple rocket launcher.

"Unfortunately most of the industrial complexes appear to have been destroyed," one diplomat said.

Doe, an army master-sergeant who seized power in a bloody coup 10 years ago, is defended by only a few hundred soldiers, most of whom belong to his minority Krahn tribe.

His Israeli-built cliff-top mansion has been fortified and packed with ammunition for a final stand against the rebel National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL).

Diplomats say Doe, who has not been seen in public for two weeks, is a virtual prisoner of his own men, who fear they will be massacred by the advancing rebels in revenge for atrocities committed by the army.

Confined to his fifth-floor apartment in the eight-storey executive mansion, Doe appears to believe that traditional magic may yet save him, even though his military position appears hopeless, they added.

Sri Lankan army takes key northern village

COLOMBO (AP) — The Sri Lankan army has captured a key northern village that controls access to the rebel stronghold on the Jaffna peninsula, military officials said Tuesday.

Soldiers took over the village of Paramban Monday after fierce fighting in which at least 30 rebels were killed, said the officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Paramban is just south of Elephant Pass, a causeway that links the Jaffna peninsula with the mainland.

Four soldiers died in the attack, in which helicopter-borne troops and commandos were dropped behind rebel defences, the officials said.

The capture of Paramban, 11 kilometres south of the causeway, could provide a launching pad for an attack on Jaffna, which the rebels have held since they repudiated a ceasefire with government forces on June 11.

The government holds four military installations on the peninsula, which have been under a rebel siege for more than a month.

The rebels blew up the Elephant Pass causeway last week in an effort to intensify their stranglehold on the peninsula, but military officials said it had been repaired.

The causeway is the only viable route for a large-scale crossing onto the peninsula, which hangs

like a scorpion's tail from the northern end of the island.

At least 2,890 combatants have been killed in the fighting, the latest phase in the 7-year-old war for an independent Tamil homeland. Many civilians also have died.

The latest casualties included eight soldiers killed near the east coast port of Trincomalee in a rebel ambush Monday, military officials said.

When the fighting began last month, the rebels held the Tamil-dominated areas on the north and east of the island. The army dislodged the rebels from most towns in the east, but the guerrillas retreated into jungles to fight what could be a protracted war.

In the north, the army has been unable to make much headway because of the difficult access to Jaffna. Jaffna's citizens charged that the Sri Lankan Air Force bombed civilians indiscriminately around the army outposts earlier in the campaign.

Tamil militants began fighting for an independent homeland in 1983, claiming their community was being discriminated against by the Sinhalese majority.

Tamils make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people and the Sinhalese, who control the army and the government, comprise 75 per cent.

The Tamil insurrection has killed at least 13,800 people.

Khmer Rouge asks for continued support, role in future government

BANGKOK (AP) — Cambodia's Khmer Rouge guerrillas, in their first reaction to a U.S. policy shift, said Tuesday they must have a role in a political settlement of the war and asked for help from Asian countries.

The widespread backing for the Cambodian guerrilla coalition's United Nations seat has ensured that the U.N. charter and international law "prevail over the law of the jungle and the use of force," Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan said in a statement over the guerrilla radio.

It was the first Khmer Rouge reaction to the U.S. decision, announced last Wednesday, to withdraw its recognition of the U.N. seat.

The United States, citing its opposition to the Khmer Rouge, said it will instead open talks with Vietnam on ending the Cambodian war.

The Communist Khmer Rouge is militarily the strongest mem-

bers of the coalition that includes the non-Communist forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and of Son Sann's Khmer People's National Liberation Front. The guerrillas are fighting the government that Vietnam installed after invading Cambodia in late 1978.

From April 1975 until the invasion ousted them from power, the Khmer Rouge killed hundreds of thousands of people in trying to turn the country into a system of primitive agrarian communes.

Khieu Samphan said in the broadcast that the key issues were a verified Vietnamese troop pull-out, a comprehensive role for the United Nations in a settlement, and the participation of all four Cambodian factions in the settlement.

Vietnam withdrew all its troops last September, but the guerrillas say some Vietnamese troops remain.

"Only with the participation of

all four parties can there be genuine national reconciliation and we can correctly implement international law and the U.N. Charter which says that the people of each country have the right to decide their own destiny," Khieu Samphan said.

He said Cambodians appreciated the help given by the people and governments in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other countries. Monday, as they prepared for their annual meeting, ASEAN members urged that no change be made in the U.N. seat now held for Cambodia by the guerrilla coalition.

"The Cambodian people also ask them to continue providing steadfast assistance and support until the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia is comprehensively settled in conformity with the spirit and principle of the U.N. Charter," he said.

Greek parliament ratifies military bases pact

ATHENS (R) — The Greek parliament ratified a defence pact with the United States early Tuesday, allowing U.S. bases to stay in the country for eight more years.

After years of tough negotiations, the new accord passed by a single vote, taking 151 votes in the 300-seat parliament. There were 144 against, one abstention and four absent deputies.

Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis, whose conservative party took power in April for the first time since 1981, has made the accord a cornerstone of his foreign policy.

The Socialist government which ruled from 1981 until 1989 broke off talks with Washington in May last year and four U.S. bases were under threat of closure by the end of 1990.

Under the accord, U.S. forces will be concentrated on Crete, where riot police battled hundreds of protesters shortly before parliament ratified the pact.

Police fired scores of tear-gas canisters at protesters who burned two police cars, hurled petrol bombs and smashed shop and hotel windows in one of the most violent anti-American demonstrations of recent years.

Left-wing newspapers have charged that the new agreement will turn Crete into an American super-fortress in the east Mediterranean — retaining a major air force base and naval communications station on the island.

The accord, signed by the two governments on July 8, closes two mainland bases — Hellenikon Air Base at Athens Airport and Nea Makri Naval Communications Station east of the capital.

The agreement replaces the previous five-year accord which expired in December 1988. The bases have operated since under a grace period and as the accord is not a full treaty, it can take effect without U.S. Senate approval.

Mitsotakis told parliament only 500 U.S. military personnel would be transferred from the mainland to Crete and there would be no new buildings at the island bases.

In return for the agreement, the U.S. government pledged to seek \$345 million in free military aid for Greece in 1991, the same level as 1990, and promised a billion-dollar package of fighter planes and naval destroyers.

The pact will cut U.S. forces by about half, from 4,000 at present. It keeps the U.S. air base at Iraklion — a main east Mediterranean communications centre — and the U.S. naval base at Souda Bay.

U.S. gives green light for moving chemical weapons from Germany

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Defence Department Monday said it was ready to begin moving U.S. chemical weapons stored in West Germany to a remote Pacific Island where the army is testing an incinerator for the first large-scale destruction of the arms.

The weapons at Clausen munitions depot in West Germany represent about 2 per cent of the total U.S. chemical weapons stockpile, said Maj. Joe Padilla, an army spokesman.

The size of the stockpile is kept secret but private experts estimate that it is about 300,000 tons. Padilla said the removal of weapons from West Germany could begin this week. They will be put in storage on Johnston Atoll, he said. "Full-scale destruction of chemical weapons is not set to start until testing is completed late next year."

Deputy Secretary of Defence Donald Atwood Jr. said in a statement that he certified to Congress that the Johnston Atoll chemical agent destruction sys-

tem has destroyed chemical munitions during initial testing, and that the site has enough storage capacity to handle munitions transported from West Germany.

The Defence Department was required by Congress to make the certification before it began moving the munitions from West Germany.

James Boyle, a spokesman for the U.S. army in Germany, said he could not confirm a German Defence Ministry statement that the 100,000 artillery shells at Clausen would begin moving Thursday.

Each convoy will include 20 flatbed trucks loaded with the chemical weapons stored in two air-tight steel containers and 60 other escort trucks, including German and U.S. security forces, emergency response crews and decontamination teams, he said.

Boyle said there would be about 30 convoys, running one a day. The containers will be loaded

onto special trains at Miesau, 48 kilometres away for the trip north to Nordenham, on the North Sea, where they will be reloaded onto U.S. Navy ships for transport to Johnston Atoll in the Pacific.

Some environmental groups and the government of Micronesia have raised questions about the safety of moving the weapons across the ocean and burning them in an incinerator.

"Transporting the European stockpile halfway around the world ineffectively increases the risks," the Federated States of Micronesia said in a statement last week. Micronesia is a former U.S. territory.

The army announced last week that it had determined that incinerating the chemical weapons would not pose an environmental or health risk to those in the vicinity of Johnston Atoll.

The Johnston Atoll facility was built to meet a 1985 congressional requirement to destroy all existing U.S. chemical weapons by 1997.

ASEAN members blame U.S., Vietnam for influx of refugees

JAKARTA (AP) — ASEAN members blamed the United States and Vietnam for the continuing influx of refugees, and the six Asian governments said Tuesday they would reserve the right to close their doors to boat people.

Vietnam has failed to prevent its citizens from leaving, members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), said in a statement released at the opening of their annual meeting.

Hanoi and Washington worsen the problem by opposing the mandatory repatriation of those who do not qualify as political refugees and by refusing to

provide alternative solutions, the statement said.

ASEAN members said they will take such actions as they deem necessary, in a more coordinated and concerted manner, to safeguard their national interests. Among their options is ceasing to provide temporary refuge, the statement said.

More than 130,000 refugees, most from Vietnam and a handful from Cambodia, crowd camps South East Asia. Only those determined to have a legitimate fear of political persecution of home are allowed to go on to third countries, such as the United States.

Refugee officials say Malaysia in the past year has rebuffed at least 8,700 boat people considered economic, not political, refugees. The officials fear other countries in the region will follow suit.

ASEAN, supported by Australia and Britain, on behalf of Hong Kong, has urged the immediate mandatory repatriation of boat people found to be leaving their countries for economic reasons rather than political reasons.

Washington and Hanoi object to forced repatriation.

Communists head for landslide victory in Mongolian elections

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia (AP) — Communist Party candidates fighting to extend 70 years of rule defeated most of the opposition slate in the initial round of Mongolia's first multi-party election, the government said Monday.

Preliminary results from Sunday's primary showed only 96 of the five opposition parties' 300 candidates were elected, Prime Minister Sharavyn Gunjaadorg said.

Communist Party Chairman Gombojavyn Ochirbat, also a candidate for the national legislature, said he survived the first round, winning more than 2,550 out of 4,991 votes cast in his constituency, the Ulan Bator district.

More than 1,300 votes went to the district's second-place finisher, a candidate from the pro-privatisation National Progress Party. He will oppose Ochirbat in the second round of voting next Sunday.

Final results from the primaries were expected later Monday. Gunjaadorg maintained that the expected Communist victory would not mean the end of Mongolia's dramatic transformation since December from an authoritarian, one-party state obedient to Moscow to a multi-party nation eager for Western contact and investment.

The election process so far "is a comparatively free and fair one," Gunjaadorg told a news conference.

"Of course, since we are exercising this kind of election for the first time there are some shortcomings and some bumps," he said.

He said the non-Communist parties would still have "some possibility...to get into power." A lower house of the legislature will have seats assigned to parties according to the number of votes they win.

Even a Communist-controlled legislature, called the Great People's Hural, would be very different from its predecessor, because most of the party's candidates this time are intellectuals and bureaucrats, rather than herders and workers as in the past.

Nineteen foreign observers are in Ulan Bator, from the Soviet Union, United States, Poland and Britain.

Mongolia is especially eager that the election be perceived as fair because U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is scheduled to visit next week and discuss extending most-favoured nation trade status to Mongolia.

Mongolia's ambassador to the United States, Nyamdoor, said the U.S. State Department did not confirm Baker's trip until the opposition parties dropped a threat to boycott the election. Nyamdoor uses only one name, as many Mongolians do.

Opposition nominees had been far outnumbered at the start, with the Communists, known as the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, fielding nearly 2,100 candidates for 430 seats in the national legislature.

The opposition acknowledged early on they had no hope of winning control over the Great People's Hural.

Formed only over the past few months, the five non-Communist parties claim a combined mem-

bership of about 12,000 to the ruling party's 98,000. They have only a fraction of its financial assets and no daily media outlet.

Although they appear to have substantial support in cities, where half of Mongolia's 2 million people live, they have had to scramble to spread word of their programmes to the rural people.

Many of those people are semi-nomadic herders only dimly aware of the large demonstrations in Ulan Bator beginning in December that forced the Communists to agree to elections. They know even less of the anti-Communist revolutions in East Europe that inspired Mongolia's opposition.

The opposition's only hope for gaining a significant voice in government lies in the 53-seat Small Hural, which will handle legislation between annual sessions of the Great Hural.

Its seats will be assigned to the various parties according to the percentage of votes each receives.

In the Great Hural, one seat has been allocated for every 2,000 rural residents and every 10,000 urban residents, hurting the city-based opposition.

In recent months, the Communists have embraced many of the goals of the opposition, including its demand for market-style economic reforms, decreased reliance on the Soviet Union and a revival of traditional culture.

Gunjaadorg said the government is drafting legislation to define the role of private and cooperative ownership in the economy, in which now almost all enterprises are state-owned.

Bush names little known conservative to Supreme Court

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush has nominated a little-known conservative to the U.S. Supreme Court seat vacated by its leading liberal but it was unclear where the nominee stood on the key issue of abortion.

Just three days after Justice William Brennan resigned for health reasons at the age of 84, Bush moved quickly to select former New Hampshire Supreme Court Justice David Souter as his first appointment to the nation's highest court.

The nomination, which must be approved by the Democratic-controlled Senate, had been keenly awaited for its possible impact in overruling a landmark court decision of 1973 establishing abortion as a constitutional right.

Brennan, the nine-member

court's leading liberal, had been a key vote in 5-4 decisions upholding this right.

Bush, who opposes the 1973 abortion decision, said he had not asked the 50-year-old jurist's opinions on abortion or other key topics dividing liberals and conservatives, such as civil rights.

Legal experts say that the replacement of a leading liberal by a conservative in the finely-balanced court could entail the most drastic change in the court's direction since President Franklin Roosevelt set it on a liberal course 50 years ago.

The Supreme Court is the third branch of the U.S. government, together with the presidency and Congress.

A reversal of its 1973 decision would not automatically make abortion illegal. It would then be

up to the individual states or federal legislatures to decide whether to ban abortion.

Introducing Souter at a White House news conference Bush said: "My selection process was not geared simply to any legal issue. It is not appropriate when choosing a Supreme Court judge to use any litmus test."

He said he was uncertain about Souter's views on abortion because he had never asked him.

He added that Souter was "extraordinarily bright, (with) a record for fairness...these are some of the qualifications that I consider essential."

Legal experts said Souter's obscure record gives little clue as to how he will rule on abortion or other controversial issues before the divided Supreme Court such as programmes to help minorities

and women or capital punishment.

Cass Sunstein, a University of Chicago law professor, said, "he's a relative unknown... He does not have a national reputation." Sunstein did a computerised search of law journals and found that Souter had authored no articles.

"We don't know anything about him at all," said Judy Brown of the anti-abortion American Life League. "It's basically going to be to wait to see how he responds at his confirmation hearing. I know he'll be asked the question."

Souter's name is believed to have been given to Bush by his chief of staff, former conservative New Hampshire Governor John Sununu, who had appointed him to the state court.



Christian Brando: I didn't mean to shoot him

LOS ANGELES (R) — Christian Brando, the son of actor Marlon Brando, told a police officer he shot his half-sister's boyfriend during an argument but that the shooting was an accident, the officer testified Monday.

Patrolman Steve Cunningham said the younger Brando's first words to him, less than 30 minutes after the incident, were, "I didn't mean to shoot him." Brando, 32, is charged with murdering 26-year-old Tahitian Dag Drollet at his father's Hollywood mansion on March 16. Christian's 20-year-old half-sister Cheyenne gave birth to Drollet's child on June 30, linking the two families. The defence said at Monday's hearing Cheyenne would not be able to give evidence because she was in hospital in Tahiti where she was under sedation for mental and physical problems. Deputy district attorney Steven Barshop had hoped to use Cheyenne as his star witness against Christian, but defence lawyer Robert Shapiro read a cablegram from the U.S. consul in Tahiti which said she was "mentally and physically unable to travel." As the court drama unfolded, it was closely watched by Marlon Brando, who sat in the front row of the spectators' gallery in a light gray, pin-striped suit with Cheyenne's brother Mike.

Chess expert called in to solve missing woman riddle

LONDON (R) — A British chess expert reckons he can lead police to the grave of a missing woman after cracking a macabre puzzle set by a man who claims to have disposed of her body. Police called in Raymond Keene, the Times newspaper's chess correspondent, after a computer expert arrested on fraud charges provided police with a clue to the dead woman's whereabouts in a chess diagram and a sequence of chess moves. The wealthy woman disappeared from her home near Preston in Northern England in January and according to Keene the man, who is not identified, admits to burying her but refuses to say where. Keene's expertise was called upon last week. Keene said it was "the most bizarre request I had ever encountered."

In Monday's Times, Keene says he used his knowledge of chess, Lewis Carroll's books, a weather map of Britain and inspiration from the fictional detective Sherlock Holmes to crack the code.

Taiwan rejects China's panda offer

TAIPEI (R) — Taipei has rejected Peking's offer of two pandas because local zoologists do not have the know-how to raise the animals, the Council of Agriculture said Monday. China Sunday renewed its "panda diplomacy" toward Taiwan with an offer of Lingling and Lele. "If we do accept the animals, the main reason would be to keep pandas from becoming extinct, and not to exhibit them to the public," said Tang Shiao-Yu, senior council specialist. He said the rejection was not a political move and that the pandas could be imported via a third country. Zoo officials plan to complete the panda housing facility in a year and go abroad to study how other zoos are raising the animals. A local citizens group, the Zoological Society of Taipei, applied in 1988 to import the animals from China but its application was rejected by the council on grounds that local facilities were inadequate.

Plane crash survivor swims to safety

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — A boy survived a plane crash in the rough water of the Indian Ocean by clinging to a broken airplane wing and swimming eight kilometres to shore, newspapers reported Sunday. Gustav Smit, 16, was one of four people aboard a private Piper Chiefplane that crashed Friday night in bad weather off Richards Bay on the country's east coast. The Sunday Times and Sunday Star reported. Smit's brother, his sister and his uncle, who piloted the plane, are presumed dead. A rescue squad found parts of the plane. A search for bodies was called off Sunday. Joey Van Der Walt, a Richards Bay resident, said he found Smit, covered in blood, collapsed in front of her house when she returned home Friday night. "Gustav said the plane broke up on impact," Mrs. Van Der Walt said. "He grabbed a piece of wing which he clung to until he reached shore."